

Aziz to visit Peking Feb. 21

PEKING (AP) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz will arrive in Peking Feb. 21 for a visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. The ministry released no other details of the visit, which is likely to include an Iraqi appeal for Chinese support of a proposed U.N. resolution to embargo arms sales to Iran. China claims neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war and supported a U.N. resolution last July calling for a ceasefire in the seven-year conflict. However, China is also accused by the United States of being a major supplier of arms, including anti-ship Silkworm missiles, to Iran. China has denied charges, but has acknowledged that some Chinese arms may reach Iran by way of the international arms market. Two senior Iranian officials said Saturday that an arms embargo against Iraq to enforce a Gulf war ceasefire would effectively kill U.N. peace efforts.

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Der Spiegel regrets 'Waldheim telegram'

HAMBURG (R) — The West German news magazine Der Spiegel said Saturday it regretted publishing a telegram which suggested Austrian President Kurt Waldheim had been involved in Nazi war crimes. In an editorial made available before publication Monday the magazine said it regretted that it had not "presented the document with the necessary objectivity." Yugoslav authorities said the telegram was a fake. The Hamburg state prosecutor's office said last Tuesday it was investigating several people on suspicion of document forgery, fraud and installing a foreign head of state. Yugoslav historian Dusan Pletica, who gave a photocopy of the telegram to the magazine, guaranteed its authenticity in an affidavit, Spiegel said. The magazine said two weeks ago that the telegram was dated 1942 and showed that Waldheim ordered the deportation of more than 4,000 Yugoslav civilians while serving as a German army officer. A West German typewriter expert found that the machine used to type the telegram was not available before 1949.

Prince Mohammad begins Oman visit

MUSCAT (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Talal arrived Saturday here on a private visit during which he will meet Sultan Qaboos of Oman. Prince Mohammad was received upon arrival by Omani Deputy Prime Minister Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said.

Rifai briefs Cabinet

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday briefed the Cabinet on His Majesty King Hussein's recent talks in Italy, the Vatican, France, West Germany and Austria. The prime minister also reviewed a decision taken by the European Community's foreign ministers condemning Israel's oppressive measures in the occupied territories. During its regular weekly session, the Cabinet endorsed a draft law aimed at improving tourism.

Radio Al Quds changes frequencies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Radio Al Quds, accused by Israel of directing Palestinian strikes in the occupied territories, changed frequencies two days after Israel jammed it with a more powerful signal carrying Israel Radio's Arabic service, according to listeners here. The Palestinian station could now be heard on a new frequency both in Jerusalem and in the West Bank, according to reports. The radio's call-sign, "the station for the liberation of the land and the man," was first heard on Jan. 1.

Pro-Palestinian rally held in Rome

ROME (R) — Thousands of demonstrators marched through the centre of Rome Saturday, calling for a Palestinian homeland and for peace in the Middle East. Representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Italy, union leaders and political figures, including Communist Party chief Alessandro Natta, led the marchers who carried banners calling on Israel to "sit down and talk." Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is due in Italy Monday for a two-day official visit.

Kidnapped UNRWA officials 'questioned'

BEIRUT (R) — An anonymous statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut Saturday said two kidnapped U.N. Scandinavian relief workers were being questioned and might be released within a week. The handwritten document said: "We will interrogate them according to informations we have, and if they prove to be innocent, we will release them within a week." It was undated and bore the signatures of the two kidnapped men, Jan Stening, 44, and William Joergensen, 57, of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees. (See related story on page 2).

Reagan in Mexico

MAZATLAN (AP) — President Reagan arrived Saturday in Mazatlan for a summit meeting with Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid which he said would act "to strengthen the commercial ties between our peoples." It was the sixth summit for the two leaders in as many years.

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Arabs battle Israeli troops in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian demonstrators battled Israeli soldiers in two Jerusalem neighbourhoods Saturday and first reports said at least two Arabs were wounded in Israeli army gunfire and 10 more were injured by beatings or rubber bullets in the clashes.

The army said it lifted a curfew imposed nine days ago on the West Bank town of Tulkarem 60 kilometres northeast of Jerusalem, where some 10,000 Palestinians live. But over 20,000 people remained curfewed in the nearby Tulkarem refugee camp and the village of Anabta and in Gaza Strip's refugee camp of Deir Al Balah.

A military official speaking on condition of anonymity said two Arabs apparently preparing an improvised bomb were wounded when a bomb went off unexpectedly in Gaza. He said soldiers were not involved in the explosion and that the army was checking the incident.

An Arab reporter in Gaza City said Mohammad Ahmad Ibrahim, 23, and Mahmoud Nimer Mohammad Al Halaby, 24, were brought to the city's Abhi hospital. He said Ibrahim was wounded in his hands while Halaby suffered head and chest wounds.

The reporter, who requested anonymity, said soldiers came to the hospital to detain Halaby.

In Gaza City, paralysed by a commercial strike, black flags of mourning and Palestinian flags decorated electricity wires and poles, the reporter said.

A Muslim preacher in one of the mosques called on the believers to "continue the uprising with knives, stones and clubs, and beware of collaborators," he said.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) reported protests and stone-throwing incidents in different parts of Gaza City and Gaza Strip, as well as in the West Bank towns of Ramallah and Hebron and the Arab Jerusalem.

Four people in Gaza City suffered beating injuries and one Arab was wounded by army gunfire, the agency said.

It said another Arab was wounded in the Balata refugee camp.

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A Palestinian boy pleads with an Israeli soldier in a jeep after he was arrested in the occupied West Bank.

3 held after abortive bid to assassinate Gemayel

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Authorities Saturday held three main suspects in connection with an abortive attempt to assassinate President Amin Gemayel by planting a bomb in a plane that was to fly him on official visits to North Yemen and Sudan, police said.

A police spokesman said the three suspects were held "in solitary confinement pending completion of investigation."

The spokesman refused to identify the suspects beyond saying they were all "Lebanese airport employees."

A 500-gramme charge of TNT was planted under the pilot's seat of the Middle East Airlines (MEA) Boeing-707 jetliner that was to leave for Larnaca, Cyprus, Friday to fly Gemayel to Sanaa, North Yemen. The bomb was found and safely defused by explosives experts at Beirut airport.

MEA, Lebanon's national carrier, has assigned another Boeing-707 for the presidential flight and Gemayel left Larnaca for Sanaa Saturday.

Gemayel, 44, travels usually by military helicopter from the Christian heartland northeast of Beirut to Larnaca and flies from there to world capitals.

Gemayel, a Maronite Catholic, has not used Beirut airport in the city's western sector since 1984 when militias wrested control of

west Beirut from the Lebanese army.

Beirut airport, surrounded by slums, is currently controlled by Syrian troops who deployed in the capital's western sector almost a year ago in an effort to end three years of militia anarchy marked by assassinations, kidnappings, hijackings and other crimes.

A judicial investigator told Reuters: "We are becoming convinced the bomb was aimed at killing the president. The bomb was set to be exploded by remote control."

Gemayel, who says he will not seek re-election when his six-year term expires in September, was philosophical about the bomb.

Beirut newspapers quoted him as saying in Larnaca: "My fate is like that of the rest of the Lebanese who have been living on a powder keg for the past 15 years."

Security sources said it had not been determined whether the bomb was planted in Beirut or in Rome, the plane's last stop before the Lebanese capital.

Sources at the presidential palace said Communications Minister Joseph Al Hashem held urgent talks there on the bomb attempt with top military and security officials, including the head of army intelligence, Simon Kassir.

Iraq accuses Israel, Iran of collaborating against Arabs

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq accused Israel of working side by side with Iran to undermine Arab security and sovereignty, the armed forces newspaper said Saturday, a day after Baghdad reported its air defences shot down an intruding Israeli drone.

The Al Qadisiya daily also said Israel was using its most sophisticated reconnaissance drones to monitor developments in the Gulf and provide military information to Iran, Iraq's enemy in the Gulf war.

"The collaboration is based on the Israeli and Iranian common aims mainly to undermine the Arab Nation's security and sovereignty," the paper said.

Iraq has repeatedly accused Iran of collaborating with Israel. In 1981, Israeli warplanes bombed an unfinished nuclear reactor in Baghdad.

Iraq's military command said Friday its air defences had shot down an unmanned remote-controlled Israeli surveillance plane near the border with Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military statement as saying the aircraft was "launched by the Zionists to jam Iraqi air defences and monitor data for the hiring Khomeini regime."

But in Israel, the military command said it had no information on the reported incident and an army spokesman, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said "I believe we will not have any information."

Al Qadisiya said: "The launching of the surveillance drone from the occupied territories on the route R-19 is aimed at providing military information to the Iranian rulers in order to encourage them to continue their war against Iraq."

Route 19 is Iraq's only air corridor through which civilian aircraft is authorised to fly over Iraqi territory since the Gulf war began.

Al Qadisiya said: "The Government of Zionist entity should bear total responsibility for this act of aggression which endangers civil aviation."

The INA said the craft was destroyed by Iraqi air defences near Al Maaniyah, a small outpost 300 kilometres southwest of Baghdad on the Saudi-Iraqi border, at 5:44 p.m. (1444 GMT) Thursday.

The Iraqi statement said: "The launching by the Zionists of the surveillance object... was part of the collaboration between the racist Zionist and Iranian regimes against the Arab Nation."

It was believed to be the first reported Israeli intrusion into Iraqi air space since Israeli warplanes destroyed an uncompleted Iraqi nuclear power station in 1981.

Iraq reports attacks on ships near Sirri Island

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked two very large naval targets — its term for supertankers or big merchant ships — near Iran's oil terminal at Sirri Island in the Gulf late Friday.

The aircraft scored accurate and effective hits in simultaneous strikes near the island at 9:08 p.m. (1808 GMT) and returned safely to base, a military spokesman said Saturday.

He added that the aim of the attacks was to stop Iran using its oil supplies to finance its war machine.

Meanwhile, the Danish supertanker Kate Maersk, latest victim in the Iran-Iraq "tanker war," was being towed out of the Strait of Hormuz Saturday as confusion reigned as to whether it had been attacked by the Iraqis or the Iranians.

Initially, the shipping community in the Gulf almost unanimously considered the tanker a victim of an Iranian raid in the early hours of Friday. A day later, some stuck to their guns, but many were saying it was more likely the victim of an Iraqi raid.

As the shipping executives expressed their divided views, they agreed that such confusion was likely to worsen.

Even as these executives were talking, it was being reported that a Soviet-made Iraqi badger fired two air-to-surface missiles at Iranian oil tanker routes — and that the missiles streamed within 13 kilometres of the destroyer Chandler, one of the U.S. warships that provide protection to U.S.-flagged commercial vessels against Iranian attacks (see page 2).

Hayden arrives for talks on Mideast peace efforts and bilateral relations

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Australian Foreign and Trade Minister Bill Hayden flew in from Damascus Saturday for talks he said would aim at identifying means of bringing about a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem and ways of promoting trade between Jordan and Australia.

Hayden told reporters upon arrival the Australian stand on the Middle East problem was identical with the Jordanian view which calls for a U.N.-sponsored international Middle East peace conference to be attended by all parties involved in the conflict and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Hayden said his country was closely following the latest developments in the region and had always supported efforts to achieve a durable peace that would secure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Hayden, who accompanied by his wife, attended a dinner hosted in his honour Saturday by Foreign Minister Taher Masri, who flew in Amman from Vienna shortly after the Australian minister's arrival. Masri had accompanied His Majesty King Hussein



Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri chats with his Australian counterpart Bill Hayden at a dinner he hosted in honour of the Australian minister who began an official visit to Jordan Saturday (Petra photo)

on a tour of European countries.

The Australian minister and an official delegation accompanying him were received at Marka airport by acting Foreign Minister and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Murwan Dudin.

Talks in Syria

In Damascus, Hayden held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and other senior officials on the current developments in the Middle East and the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and the territories.

The Jordan News Agency, Pet-

ra, said Hayden held talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Minister of Economy and External Trade Mohammad Imadi. The talks tackled means of enhancing Syrian-Australian economic relations, Petra said.

Hayden also held two rounds of talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa on the situation in the Middle East, the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and the territories.

(Continued on page 3)

PLO ship to sail Monday

By Lamis K. Andoni
in Athens

THE PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) Saturday denounced Israeli efforts to block the voyage to Palestine of a ship carrying Palestinians expelled from the West Bank and Gaza by Israel and announced that the delayed trip would begin Monday.

The PLO announcement came amid cautious optimism among PLO officials and supporters gathered here to board the "ship of return" that the PLO had secured agreement in principle from at least four ships to embark on the voyage.

At the same time, informed sources said a decision had been taken to purchase a vessel at a cost of \$4.5 million as the final option in case negotiations with the four shipowners failed.

The sources said there were also plans to alter the route of the journey of the "ship of return" to cut short the distance and duration of the trip, mainly to allow the international personalities expected to be aboard to return in time to meet other commitments. The sources said the decision was expected to come any time.

If a chartered vessel is used for the journey, the sources said, its departure point would be Larnaca, Cyprus, instead of the Greek port of Piraeus as originally scheduled and in this event the Palestinians and others expected to be aboard will proceed to Larnaca Monday.

According to the sources, if the PLO is faced with the only option of using the vessel it plans to buy the number of people aboard will be reduced because the size of the vessel is limited. For this reason, the sources said, the PLO is hoping to achieve success in its negotiations with the owners of the four larger ships.

Negotiations are also under way between the PLO and the Greek government for the use of the Greek flag on the "ship of return" whether it is PLO-owned or otherwise, the sources added. Also, a full crew have been lined up for the journey, the sources said.

But despite all these preparations and contingency plans, journalists were sceptical Saturday whether the journey would go ahead as planned since it was evident that the Israelis were applying considerable pressure against it.

An anonymous caller warned Saturday that a bomb was placed at the President Hotel where most of the delegates

(Continued on page 3)

Syria warns U.S. not to revive Camp David plans

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria warned U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Saturday against trying to reactivate the Camp David treaty during his tour of the Middle East later this month.

"If the United States wants to activate the Camp David process, which failed on the ground, during its new move, it will achieve total failure," Damascus Radio said.

The State Department said Friday Shultz would travel to the Middle East on or about Feb. 24 with a new plan for Middle East peace.

The plan, presented to regional leaders earlier this month by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, calls for an "international meeting" in April to pave the way for direct Arab-Israeli talks.

Discussions would follow on granting Palestinians limited "self-rule" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Partial and unilateral deals which contradict the spirit of the United Nations resolutions are rejected," Damascus Radio said in a commentary.

It said Shultz must know that old American initiatives which abandoned the U.N. role and Soviet participation in finding a solution could not solve the conflict.

The commentary also warned Shultz not to reject the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, one of two basic conditions for a just peace. The second was full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

Shultz's Middle East tour reflects the urgency which has been injected into the search for a regional settlement by more than two months of Palestinian protests in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has attacked the proposal for not envisaging the

creation of a Palestinian state. Israel's coalition government is split on the issue, with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud bloc saying the U.S. initiative seeks to go too far, too fast, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the Labour Party welcoming it.

Israel Television reported that Shamir sent a letter to Shultz Wednesday, asking him to change several details of the proposed U.S. plan.

Shamir asked to abolish the idea of an international conference, to postpone the timetable for Arab "self-rule" and not to set a date for talks about the final status of the territories, the TV said.

In addition, the Israeli leader requested that the United States enlist international support for resettling Gaza Strip's Palestinian refugees in urban neighbourhoods.

The television quoted Shultz as saying in a Thursday reply to Shamir that the international community would not support such a project as long as Israel occupies Gaza.

It said Shultz rejected Shamir's requests, telling the Israeli leader that the changes he proposed may eliminate the whole peace process.

Shamir lashed out at Peres Friday for saying in recent days that the uprising in the occupied territories could have been avoided if Israel had participated in an international peace conference earlier this year.

At a foreign ministry briefing Friday, an Israeli official said that Israel accepts the American timetable calling for negotiations on "self-rule" to begin in April.

But he said the Soviet Union must restore full diplomatic relations with the Zionist state, cut off in 1967, before it can participate in the peace process.

Cossiga asks Gorla to resurrect government

ROME (Agencies) — Italian President Francesco Cossiga Saturday ordered Giovanni Gorla, who resigned as prime minister Wednesday, to resurrect his coalition government and face a parliamentary confidence vote, presidential officials said.

Officials at Cossiga's palace said the president had rejected Gorla's resignation and ordered the coalition of his Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals to face the vote.

It was not immediately clear whether Gorla's mandate is merely to remain on until Italy's 1988 budget is approved by parliament by the April 30 deadline, as many politicians have suggested.

The president's other options included appointing a new premier-designate to try to form a new coalition government or dissolving parliament and calling early general elections.

Gorla, 44, Italy's youngest-ever premier, resigned saying a series of defeats on secret votes on the budget convinced him he could no longer govern.

While Cossiga's decision at least temporarily resurrects Italy's 47th post-war government, it does not resolve the problems within the governing coalition that led to the collapse.

Gorla told reporters at the presidential palace that he had agreed to withdraw his resignation out of a sense of responsibility.

Palestinians protest against abduction of UNRWA staff

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Hundreds of angry Palestinians burned tyres at the entrances of two refugee camps near this southern Lebanese port Saturday to protest against the kidnapping of two Scandinavian U.N. relief workers.

Smoke billowed over Ain Al Hilweh and Miyeh Miyeh camps where a strike closed schools, shops and other businesses for the second time in a week.

Men, women and children carried banners at the camps calling for the release of Swede Jan Stening, 44, and Norwegian William Joergensen, 57.

The two, who worked for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), were kidnapped by Palestinian gunmen near Sidon last Friday.

UNRWA, which employs more than 2,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, said the detention of the two threatened continued U.N. aid to Palestinians and Lebanon.

It said the kidnappers were Palestinians with connections to the Al Fateh group of Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Arafat was quoted in Cairo Saturday as saying Fateh forces had found the kidnappers' hide-out and surrounded it. They had not stormed it because the victims' governments had asked them not to do.

Negotiations between Mustafa Saad, leader of the Sunni Muslim Popular Liberation Army (PLA), which controls Sidon, and Palestinian and UNRWA officials have failed to secure the release of the two.

The abduction prompted UNRWA to evacuate two of its international staff from Lebanon Thursday.

An UNRWA spokeswoman said four others, who were on leave at the time of abduction, would stay in Cyprus and were regarded as evacuees.

Four Irish employees and the agency's Swedish director, Per Olaf Hallquist, will stay in Lebanon to continue efforts to release the two captives.

Palestinian officials of several factions denied any links to the abduction and vowed to work for the release of the two, hinting at the possibility of using force if dialogue failed.

No group has claimed responsibility for the kidnappings.

In a separate development, the Falangist Lebanese Forces militia is holding eight seamen, including

three Danes, but plans to release them within days, Danish Charge d'Affaires Ole Meustrup said Saturday.

"Some Danish sailors are present with the Lebanese Forces because they did not have all the regular papers. We are working on their release which will be during the few coming days," Meustrup told Reuters.

The men have been held since last December.

He refused to elaborate but said that the eight were not hostages, but were held for routine investigations.

Lebanese Forces officials refused to comment.

Security sources in Christian east Beirut told Reuters the eight — three Danes, four Poles and one Sri Lankan — were captured by the Lebanese Forces from a cargo ship off Lebanese waters on Dec. 27.

"Their cargo ship was taking weapons to the Palestinians in the South. The Lebanese Forces intercepted them and had been holding them for investigation," one source said.

He said the ship was forced to dock at the fifth basin of Beirut port, controlled by the Lebanese Forces.

Details were not available on the capture of the ship and it was not immediately clear whether the ship had delivered its cargo when it was intercepted.

Israel conducts 3 nuclear tests in Antarctica

CAIRO (R) — An authoritative Egyptian newspaper Saturday said Israel had carried out three nuclear tests in the Norwegian sector of Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and South Africa.

The government-owned Al Ahram in an uncorroborated front-page report by its military editor said the first test was conducted in September 1979 in Queen Maud Land with possible cooperation from South Africa.

The second was carried out on March 5, 1986 and the third on Dec. 3 the same year with help from Norway and Pretoria, it said.

The report said the explosions were monitored by the United States and the Soviet Union but Norway, as a coverup, announced they resulted from avalanches.

Israel concluded a secret agreement with Norway and South Africa in 1985 under which Israeli civilian and military personnel were sent to the Norwegian sector, it said.

The 1,150-strong contingent made the journey aboard a Liberian-flag ship owned by the Israeli shipping company ZIM.

South Africa sent a 260-strong team and Norway contributed 670 personnel. The declared purpose was exploration.

Norway and South Africa helped Israel build an airstrip, a communication station and research centres and all work was completed by November 1985.

According to Al Ahram, two C-130 military planes landed in Port Elizabeth in December 1986, carrying 42 Israelis who were immediately transported to Queen Maud Land aboard a South African cargo ship for the test.

The report said 750 Israelis were sent home in February last year and the rest returned last Aug. 31.

Al Ahram cited shipment to Israel of 21 tonnes of Norwegian heavy water, essential for the nuclear arms industry, from 1959 to 1970 as a proof of close cooperation between them.

It said Israel has sent seven teams, including military personnel and technicians, to Norway over the past year for training to work in very cold conditions.

Al Ahram said the three countries have discovered uranium, coal, iron and oil in Queen Maud Land.

Israel had now stopped its activities there as Norway did not want to anger Arab states, Al Ahram said.

Bloodsoaked flag symbolises Palestinian rebellion

NABLUS, West Bank (R) — An Arab youth, his face swathed in a chequered keffiyeh headscarf, held a bloodstained Palestinian flag in one hand and a knife in the other.

"The blood of a martyr," he cried, as youths threw bricks, bottles and cinderblocks from rooftops on to Israeli foot patrols in the old city of Nablus, the largest city in the occupied West Bank.

The flag was dipped in the blood of 14-year-old Basel Tayyar Al Jitan, shot dead by Israeli troops outside the Al Nasr Mosque in the city's market district during a pitched battle with hundreds of Palestinian protesters.

The boy's body was carried through the narrow alleys by shouting demonstrators.

Outnumbered, short of tear gas and rubber bullets, the soldiers opened fire with live ammunition as they were driven back by projectiles.

Panic-stricken troops ran through the alleys firing in the air.

One soldier, hit by a stone, bled from the nose. Another limped after being hit on the leg.

The battle that began after Friday prayers at the blue-domed mosque was one of the bloodiest since the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip began more than two months ago.

Ten days of curfew in Nablus, home to more than 100,000 Palestinians, had apparently not calmed the anti-Israeli revolt.

An army spokeswoman said

troops shot dead two Palestinians and wounded five Friday after protesters threw petrol bombs and stones at them.

Inside the mosque, masked youths handed out clandestinely printed pamphlets signed by a group calling itself the "Palestinian Association of Friends of Our Land" calling for the liberation of Palestine.

The first stones flew as worshippers left the mosque, chanting "Allah-U-Akbar" (God is Great), and were immediately answered by tear gas. Youths scattered, taking up new positions on rooftops, in doorways, and on the roof of the mosque itself.

Some fired glass marbles from slingshots, others threw flowerpots, tin cans and bottles in a battle that raged for more than an hour.

Then the body of the other dead Palestinian, 17-year-old Basheer Al Masri, a member of an illustrious Nablus clan whose members include Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, was carried to a house.

Mourners dipped their hands in his blood, wailed and cried vengeance.

A crowd of 300 accompanied the body, draped in a Palestinian flag, to a hillside cemetery where Masri was buried overlooking the mosque as gunfire echoed from the old city.

As dusk fell, the flash of gunfire lit up the sky.

Young Palestinians turned from the grave, raised their slingshots and picked up stones to

throw at the troops. The uprising continued.

Israeli artists protest

Meanwhile Israeli intellectuals and artists shocked by persistent Arab revolt and tough repressive measures by the army are calling on the government to begin negotiations with Palestinian leaders.

"As humanists we must be among the first to stand up and raise our voices," said playwright Moti Lerner. "A process is taking place in which the Palestinians are being dehumanised. You can only beat a man with a club or humiliate him if you have dehumanised him first."

According to Lerner, the events of the past two months have radicalised many Israeli intellectuals and artists. According to U.N. figures, Israeli soldiers and civilians have killed at least 54 Palestinians since the unrest began Dec. 8. Hundreds have been severely beaten.

Lerner told the Associated Press he has enlisted at least 150 widely known authors, artists, singers, playwrights and actors for a rally next week. Participants will call for talks with Palestinians and an end to Israel's 20-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Among the participants will be pop singers Shalom Chanocho, Shlomo Artzi, and Danny Sanderson, whose political views were not publicly known before.

"They told me they had no choice but to take part this time," said Lerner. "They said they couldn't remain silent any

longer."

Those attending next week's rally will be asked to sign a petition calling on Israel to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We are asking the government to start talking peace with the Palestinians and to recognise that they have national rights and a national leadership," said Lerner.

Lerner, whose latest play, Hevlei Messiah, is about growing religious extremism among Jewish settlers in the occupied lands, warned that the government's treatment of the Palestinians would boomerang on Israel.

"You can't corrupt your enemy. You can only corrupt yourself," he said. "This is a cultural phenomenon which will continue if the occupation continues and leave us without a culture."

Last week, another group of 15 Israeli writers and artists announced they intended to talk with Palestinian deportees who are planning to sail from Athens, Greece, to Israel.

The group rented a hall in the northern port town of Haifa for the meeting but the sailing has since been postponed.

Author Yoram Kaniuk said the Palestinians' right to exist as a condition for talks.

"We want to meet those people because they are the leaders of the Palestinians in the occupied territories," said Kaniuk. "Now is the time for both sides to agree they cannot destroy each other."

Arab-Americans urge new U.S. line on PLO

WASHINGTON (R) — Arab-American groups have urged the Reagan administration to shift its policy on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), saying new U.S. peace moves in the Middle East were unlikely to succeed until that happened.

Khalil Jahshan, chairman of the Council of Presidents of National Arab-American Organisations, told a news conference he and other leaders of the organisation's 14 member groups met Secretary of State George Shultz Thursday night and were encouraged by renewed U.S. efforts

toward peace in the area.

But Jahshan said the efforts, including a Shultz visit to the Middle East announced on Friday, were unlikely to bear fruit until the United States recognised the right of Palestinians to an independent state and to be represented by the PLO at any talks deciding their future.

"Short of real serious change in the U.S. policy towards the Palestinians ... the process will be of limited results, if any at all," he said.

Jahshan said Shultz responded to these concerns in their meeting

by reiterating the U.S. refusal to deal with the PLO, which the administration views as a terrorist group and not representative of the majority of Palestinians.

The latest U.S. efforts to seek a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict came after violence erupted in December between Palestinians and Israeli forces in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza. More than 50 Palestinians have died in the clashes.

The U.S. peace initiative proposes an international meeting that would lead to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

Arabs concerned over threat to PLO in U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Arab states, meeting as a group, expressed grave concern Friday over the U.S. threat to close the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) U.N. mission.

A statement after the closed-door meeting said the group chairman, Ambassador Karim Al Shaker of Bahrain, was empowered to contact the heads of other U.N. regional groups "to seek their support for whatever action might be taken" in response.

Diplomatic sources said that if the United States declined to accept arbitration or, having

accepted it, still closed the PLO mission while the procedure was under way, the question would go to a reconvened U.N. General Assembly session.

In that event, the sources said, the Assembly was almost certain to refer the problem to the World Court for an advisory opinion, which would inevitably go against the United States.

The Arab states' delegates would meet on the matter again next Wednesday, according to the official statement.

The threat to close the 13-year-old PLO mission has put the

United Nations on a collision course with its host country, which has acknowledged that its impending action is contrary to a treaty between them.

In a report Thursday, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar proposed conciliation procedures, but the United States said these were not yet necessary.

Attorney General Edwin Meese is expected to announce next week a response to the decision by Congress to close the mission. With reservations, President Reagan signed the decision into law.

Iraqi jet fires missiles near U.S. destroyer

ABOARD THE USS CHANDLER IN THE GULF (R) — An Iraqi jet bomber fired a long-range cruise missile within 13 kilometres of the U.S. destroyer *Chandler* Friday night as it was escorting a convoy of four reflagged tankers on their way to Kuwait's oil terminals.

Although the *Chandler* and its convoy were not the apparent targets of the missile attack, the destroyer fired two flares from its five-inch guns to warn the Iraqi Badger bomber that it was approaching too close to the U.S. warships.

Commander Steve Smith, captain of the *Chandler*, said he was concerned because Iraqi pilots often fire at radar blips without making sure what their targets really are.

"Having watched the geometry of their attacks for some time, I was concerned that he would be firing his missile while he was heading toward us," Smith said over the ship's public address system after the incident.

In May 1987, the U.S. destroyer *Stark* was struck by Exocet missiles fired by an Iraqi fighter in the Gulf, killing 37 sailors. Iraq said it was a mistake and apologised.

Smith told a small group of reporters who boarded the ship as part of the Pentagon's Gulf press pool that in Friday night's incident the Iraqi pilot fired two

Soviet-made C-601 missiles, a 50-mile-range air-launched version of the Styx, which China copied in producing its better-known Silkworm.

Smith said both missiles passed astern of the *Chandler*, the last ship in the convoy, but that one of the rockets suddenly changed course and passed along the starboard side of the ship before veering away to the right.

Seconds later, it detonated, producing a bright flash on the horizon. There was no immediate indication whether the missile had hit a target or had crashed harmlessly into the sea.

Smith said it was the closest approach of a missile to his ship, which has been on station in the

Gulf since Nov. 25. The *Chandler*, one of four guided-missile destroyers originally produced for Iran during the reign of the shah but never delivered, is the flagship of the U.S. Navy's tanker escort squadron, which also includes six frigates.

Ensign Brian Josse, of Hawaii, who was officer of the deck when the incident began, said later: "We've seen Iraqi planes come close but never this close."

Quartermaster Second Class Dave Markee of Salem, Oregon, who was manning a 50-calibre machinegun on the starboard side of the ship, said: "We believe we saw the missile separate (from the jet). We also saw anti-aircraft fire off our stern."

Sweden not to sell boats to Iran

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Revising Sweden's arms export controls cannot prevent deals like the sale of civilian speedboats to Iran, which are now used to attack Gulf shipping, the foreign trade minister said Friday.

U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci asked the Swedish government this week to prevent another delivery of the boats, U.S. embassy officials said.

But Foreign Trade Minister Anita Gradin said the government had assured Washington that Iran had placed no further orders and no more deliveries

were planned.

"We in the government are doing anything we can to prevent tension in the area," she told the Associated Press.

Swedish law forbids the export of war material to areas of international or domestic conflict. But the sale of 40 boats from 1982 to 1985 did not fall into that category and was cleared by the War Material Inspection Board, she said.

"Here you have a gray area. There are a lot of boats in the Stockholm archipelago that could be changed to something different," she said.

S. Africa denies hiring Lavi team

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa denied Friday that it had hired engineers from Israel's abandoned Lavi fighter aircraft project to help it develop a similar plane.

"This is not the first time this report has surfaced, but we are not employing any Israeli engineers," a spokesman for the government-owned weapons manufacturer Armscor told Reuters.

The spokesman was reacting to a report in the Israeli daily *Haaretz* that Israeli engineers, who lost their jobs when Israel scrapped production of the Lavi last August, were helping to re-create the fighter-bomber in South Africa.

The Hebrew paper quoted foreign press reports as saying the state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) would sell South Africa the development know-how of the fighter-bomber.

Armscor declined any further comment on the issue and Israeli officials regularly refuse to discuss military exports.

Last March Israel announced it was downgrading military trade with South Africa and said it would sign no new defence-related contracts with the white-led government.

Haaretz said Pretoria had ignored economic considerations in deciding to build the plane.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

7:30-7:45 News Headline
7:45-8:00 Close Down

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme Review
15:55 Cartoons
16:05 Dennis the Menace
16:15 Children's programmes
16:25 Isaura
17:30 Local programme
17:45 Soccer
18:10 Local agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme on Arabic
22:00 T.V. Magazine (local)
22:00 News Summary
23:00 Close Down

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Rue Carnot
18:30 L'Ecole des Femmes
19:00 News in French
19:15 International Circus Festival
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Farrington of the F.O.
21:10 The Making of a Continent (documentary)
22:00 News in English
22:20 Secret Army

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz FM
and partly on 95.60 KHz. SW
Tel. 77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
11:05 In Concert
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Talk
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Science Report
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Rhythm and Blues
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show continued
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show continued
23:00 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* The French Cultural Centre presents: "L'urbanisme Parisien" (urban policy in Paris) at the Gallery of Architecture (until Feb. 18).

* Exhibitions entitled "From Gutenberg to Gutenberg" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid (until Feb. 17).

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

* Italian film festival at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Feb. 18). Tonight's film: "Enrico IV" at 8:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre ... Tel. 6610267
American Centre Library ... 644371
British Council ... 6361478
French Cultural Centre ... 637009
Goethe Institute ... 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre ... 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre ... 638409
Turkish Cultural Centre ... 637777
Haya Arts Centre ... 651195
Husseini Youth City ... 6671816
Y.W.C.A. ... 664251
Amman Municipal Library ... 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library ... 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Feldore Museum: Jewelry and costumes from 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubweideh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.
Terressant Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubweideh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622566.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence Tel. 601359.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Assunta International Church (denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-evangelical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822605, Rev. Rev.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815-817, 821-564.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 52200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)
09:40 Jeddah (RJ)
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:05 Cairo (RJ)
10:10 London (RJ)
10:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:20 Paris (RJ)
10:25 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
10:30 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
10:35 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
10:40 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
10:45 Tripoli (RJ)
10:50 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:00 Berlin (IF)
09:25 Cairo (MS)
11:20 Damascus (AZ)
11:45 Kuwait (LJ)
12:45 Sharjah, Doha (GP)
13:45 Jeddah (SV)
13:40 Kuwait (KI)
13:50 Baghdad (IA)
16:25 Athens (OA)
18:25 Beirut (LJ)
19:15 Frankfurt (LH)
21:05 Cairo (MS)
08:25 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:05 Tripoli (RJ)
07:10 Vienna, New York (RJ)
07:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
07:20 Cairo (RJ)
07:25 Kuwait (RJ)
07:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:35 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:40 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:45 Baghdad (RJ)
07:50 Larnaca (RJ)
07:55 Jeddah, Sana'a (RJ)
08:00 Cairo (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:10 Cairo (MS)
09:20 Beirut (LJ)
09:25 Rome (AZ)
0

IDB moves to implement Regent's recommendations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday received a message from President of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank informing him that the IDB has taken certain measures to implement the Crown Prince's recommendations to the IDB Board of Governors.

Prince Hassan, in his inaugural speech of the 10th annual meeting of the IDB Board of Governors held in Amman last March, called for increasing the bank's credit facilities and in-kind assistance to areas encountering economic difficulties, particularly the least developed countries.

Prince Hassan's recommendations aimed at enabling such countries or areas to obtain easy loans and funds with the ultimate goal of creating new job opportunities for people living in these areas and consequently improving their income.

In his message, the IDB president said that the bank, in implementation of the recommendations, has sent two task forces to Sudan and Mali to familiarise themselves with the various development projects — particularly those related to agriculture, water, combatting desertification, roads and transport — in preparation for drawing up the necessary technical assistance programmes.

The IDB official also said in his letter that the bank's board of directors has approved a strategy for implementing Prince Hassan's recommendations and directives.

The directives include organising scientific seminars and symposiums, designed to identify the appropriate projects to be financed by the bank.



Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayed, receives Canadian parliamentary delegation in his office Saturday (Petra photos)

Majali opens Badia training school

AL AZRAQ (Petra) — Director of Public Security Department Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali Saturday said that application of the comprehensive security philosophy has warranted that all security institutions undergo structural changes capable of making them ready to keep abreast with the new developments.

Inaugurating a new training school for Badia (desert) police in Azraq, Majali said that the new philosophy focused on strengthening the humanitarian and so-

cial role of security men, therefore, he added, "desert and border police should not be isolated from the development and organisational process which aims at enabling them to perform their duties in the best manner."

Majali called for holding specialised training courses at the school with the aim of upgrading the performance of Badia and border police cadres.

Majali was briefed on the duties and responsibilities of the school and its role in training and qualifying the police cadres,

which provide the border police and armed forces with trained manpower.

At the end of the celebration Majali toured the various sections of the school and watched a performance staged by a unit from the desert and border police.

The performance included slow and quick march, dismantling and assembling of arms.

Majali also took part in a tree planting celebration, during which 300 olive trees and 2,000 forest trees were planted.

Egyptian team to continue energy talks in Amman

CAIRO (Petra) — A delegation from the Egyptian Ministry of Electricity and Energy is due here next week on an official visit to Jordan during which they will continue talks and discussions with the Jordanian side on a feasibility study of electrical interconnection between Jordan and Egypt.

The study has been conducted by an international consulting firm. The delegation represents the Egyptian side in the Jordanian-Egyptian technical committee for joint cooperation in electric power and energy fields.

Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza said here Saturday that there was a possibility for involving Saudi Arabia in the interconnection project so that Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia would be linked by an electric grid which allows the exchange of excessive power among the three countries.

Abbadi back after Islamic jurors' talks in Riyadh

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi returned home Saturday after taking part in the 4th session of the Islamic Fiqh (Jurisprudence) Council, which concluded in Saudi Arabia Friday.

In an arrival statement, Abbadi said he presented to the meeting three research papers on bonds of indebtedness, transplantation of human organs and expropriation of property for bona fide.

On transplantation of human organs, Abbadi said Jordan has been a pioneer in this field.

Abbadi said that participants discussed issues pertaining to alms (zakat) of shares and changes in currency exchange, selling of commercial shares, resale with specification of gain, and using zakat money for the Islamic Solidarity Fund.

Abbadi added that participants also approved the JD 1 million annual budget of the academy and adopted a recommendation calling for the publication of an Islamic jurisprudence encyclo-

Dog found

AMMAN (J.T.) — A beautiful, apparently well trained dog, has been found by a family in Amman. The family is requesting the owners to contact telephone number 811449 to claim their dog.

Arabs battle Israeli troops in Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1) camp near Nablus where six other protesters were injured by rubber bullets.

In Jerusalem's southeastern Jabal Mukaber neighbourhood, about a hundred Arabs raised the Palestinian flag and threw stones, advancing towards the nearby hilltop Jewish settlement of East Talpyot.

Dozens of Jewish residents gathered to look at Israeli policemen and soldiers who fired tear gas at the Arabs and then ran into Jabal Mukaber, chasing the protesters.

Israel Radio said two Arabs were arrested in Jabal Mukaber. Four others were arrested in the southeastern neighbourhood of Anabta where police fired tear gas to disperse protesters.

In Haifa, about 2,000 Jews and Arabs marched in pouring rain, shouting slogans and holding signs that read "down with occupation," and "two states for two people," Associated Press photographer Anat Givon said.

She said the slogans were painted on white, red, green or black background, the colours of the Palestinian flag.

Israel Radio quoted a Haifa police commander as saying police would investigate an attempt to unfurl the Palestinian flag during the demonstration.

Protests were reported in Nablus, where Israeli troops shot and

rest is led and coordinated by a secret group of 15 people with three representatives from each faction.

It said the group unites communists, Muslim fundamentalists and members of such Palestinian organisations as Fateh, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The statement was signed by Parliament member Riyadh Al Nawayseh, Pharmacist Association President Tayseer Homsi, Nurses Association President Hashem Salameh, Jamal Shahr, Milhem Al Tal, Anwar Hadid, Nayef Batayneh, Adib Hawatmeh, Talal Al Omari, Saleh Al Fayed, Walid Marakeh, Abdul Fatah Al Kellani and Amal Naffah.

Several delegations issued statements condemning Israeli pressures against the voyage and expressing support for Palestinian rights.

The delegation from Jordan expressed full solidarity with the Palestinians and support for their right to return to their homeland under international

Jordan committed to peace conference, Fayed tells Canadian parliamentarians

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayed Saturday stressed Jordan's position vis-a-vis finding a solution to the Middle East problems and outlined the Kingdom's efforts to convene an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, to be attended by all parties to the conflict and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

At a meeting with a Canadian parliamentary delegation currently visiting Jordan on a fact-finding mission, Fayed stressed the role which Canada can play towards the establishment of peace in the region.

He also praised Jordanian-Canadian relations and voiced appreciation of Canada's assistance to Jordan in the economic and oil exploration fields, in addition to the aid it provides to the Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

Speaking about the Iran-Iraq war, Fayed called on Canada to exercise pressure on Iran to accept the U.N. Resolution 598 urging all parties to end the Gulf war.

The Canadian delegation praised Jordan's achievements in the construction, economic and educational fields and praised the Kingdom's role in the region and its moderate policy.

The delegation voiced Canada's will to do its utmost to find a solution to the Middle East question and expressed hope that they will have the opportunity to look closely at the actual situations in the region.

At the end of the meeting, Fayed presented the head of the delegation with the House's shield.

The meeting was attended by a number of deputies, including Riza Al Bataineh, chairman of the External Affairs Committee, who later hosted a luncheon in honour of the delegation.

Dudin briefed Canadians. Earlier Saturday, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin received the de-

puting an end to the sufferings of the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

Dudin reaffirmed Jordan's policy concerning the international conference, saying Jordan will not speak for the Palestinians "because it is the Palestinian people who select their representatives in any future talks."

On the Israeli government's stand towards the proposed international peace conference, Dudin said the conflict within the Israeli government and the political parties is responsible for the Israeli failure to come up with a unified stand towards this conference, "and thus it constitutes an obstacle to holding the international conference."

He pointed out the Jordanian government's efforts to support the people in the occupied territories and reviewed the economic and social development programmes of the occupied territories.

He added that the continued support by the Jordanian government to the inhabitants of the occupied territories has contributed significantly to finding solutions to many problems facing the people there and has also alleviated their sufferings.

Dudin also briefed the delegation on developments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with all its political, social and humanitarian aspects.

Later, the delegation members met with Planning Minister Taher Kanaan who briefed them on Jordan's five year development plan and the economic and social development programmes of the occupied territories.

The minister added that the current uprising, which has entered its third month, highlights the importance of finding a solution to the Palestine question and

Aqaba handles 2,333 ships

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 2,333 ships docked at Aqaba port during the period from Jan. 87 through November, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Ports Corporation. The bulletin further said that passengers arriving in Jordan through Aqaba totalled 414,256 while the number of departures was 198,627. The port also received 8,080,270 tonnes of imports, while 10,288,217 tonnes of various goods were exported through the port, during the aforementioned period.

30 truck-loads of Kuwaiti aid passes through Jordan en route to Lebanon

RAMTHA (Petra) — A convoy of 30 trucks Saturday crossed the Jordanian border point at Ramtha en route to the Lebanese capital of Beirut.

The trucks were loaded with drugs, clothes and foodstuff donated by the Kuwaiti government to the Lebanese people.

Fadel Abu Ghath, the Kuwaiti embassy chancellor, who was at Ramtha border point to bid farewell to the convoy.

The convoy also included 30

buses donated by Kuwait to be used for transportation of Lebanese students.

Abu Ghath said these supplies are part of Kuwait's assistance to the people of Lebanon.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Director in Jordan Richard Reid, who was there to receive the convoy, thanked Kuwait for its contribution "which came at a time when such supplies are badly needed."

Reid said that the \$10 million worth supplies will contribute "to alleviating the sufferings of the Lebanese children who are the most vulnerable and who suffer from deprivation and lack of resources."

Reid voiced his organisation's appreciation of the Arab states, including Jordan for providing all the necessary facilities to ensure the smooth passage of these supplies to Lebanon.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent visits army division

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday visited a formation of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division. The Crown Prince was briefed during the visit on the present and future training programmes carried out by the formation. Prince Hassan also toured the formation's various units where he watched practical demonstrations by the formation's personnel. The Crown Prince also met with the personnel at these units and praised their high efficiency and performance during the demonstrations.

Royal Decree approves revised laws

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the revised regulation of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. The amended regulation deals with the new guidelines governing the construction of mosques, their supervision and restoration. Another Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the Greater Amman supplies and public works regulation, under which principles governing the purchase of supplies and furniture have been defined.

Cabinet endorses cooperation pact

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has endorsed an agreement of cooperation with Tunisia in the field of producing and exchanging topographic maps. The agreement will be signed in Tunis in the second half of March.

European MPs to visit occupied lands

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation will arrive to the occupied Arab territories by the end of this month on a fact-finding mission. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayed has received a memo from Jordan's ambassador in Brussels concerning the delegation's visit. The delegation comprises parliamentarians from the association's Executive Council. The visit was decided during a meeting of the council held in Brussels on Jan. 22.

5 killed in Zarqa bus accident

ZARQA (Petra) — Five people were killed and five others injured when a bus operating at Amman-Zarqa route hit them Saturday morning. The traffic police chief in Zarqa blamed the accident on high speed and loss of control, which caused the bus to veer to the other side of the street where the victims were waiting.

AAU meeting starts today

SANAA (Petra) — The five-day meeting of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) starts here Sunday. Participants will discuss issues pertaining to university education and higher education in the Arab World and the obstacles encountered. Taking part in the meetings and the AAU's 6th general conference, which will follow the 21st session, are representatives for 59 Arab universities, in addition to representatives of the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) and Association of Arab Scientific Research Councils, in addition to the Arab Federation for Technical Education.

Yarmouk doctors take posts in Tunis

IRBID (Petra) — University of Tunis Faculty of Arts has nominated two Jordanian doctors from the Yarmouk University as members of the editorial board of a magazine issued in English by the University. The Jordanian doctors are Mohammad Zughoul, head of the modern languages section and Mufeed Hawamdeh, doctor of English at the English Language Department.

Hayden begins visit to Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Gaza, the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in strife-torn Lebanon. Sharras and Hayden agreed on the necessity for a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem through the proposed international peace conference, Petra said.

The Syrian news agency (SANA) said "points of view have converged on that partial or individual solutions cannot achieve the purpose of comprehensive and just peace."

Jordan-Australia trade Australia's Ambassador to Jordan Terry Goggin told the Jordan Times Hayden's talks in Amman were expected to culminate in signing an agreement aimed at

boosting economic and trade relations between Jordan and Australia. Goggin said that the pact would also entail setting up a joint committee to set targets and identify areas of increased trade.

Statistics show that Jordanian-Australian trade three-to-one in favour of Australia which exported goods worth \$30 million to Jordan in the form of wheat and steel products in 1986. Jordanian exports to Australia included fertilisers.

The proposed committee will aim at promoting trade ties which have dropped substantially in 1987 due to the lack of specialised mechanism to organise trade links, according to the ambassador.

African students terrorised in Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

man was walking in Rabyeh suburb near Dik Al Mehdi Friday when a car drove by and gunmen riddled his body with bullets, killing him instantly.

Chukwudi said Ivory Coast diplomats in east Beirut had asked the "Lebanese Forces" militia to help investigate the killings but a bomb was thrown Monday at the embassy premises in east Beirut.


Ivory Coast officials were not available for comment. Police confirmed a bomb was hurled at the embassy and said there were no casualties.

Police and "Lebanese Forces" sources said the motives behind

the killings were personal and not political. Giving a different account of first incident, a "Lebanese Forces" source said:

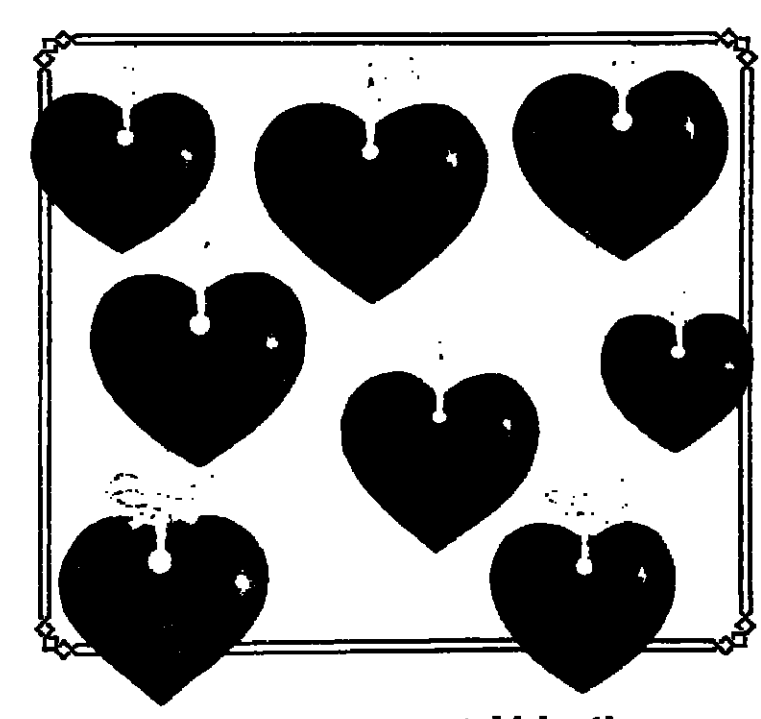
"Three Africans working for a Lebanese man in Dik Al Mehdi had a fight with him, then they hit him and killed him. His friends and family then took revenge and killed several Africans."

The source refused to say how many Africans were killed. "We don't know if the killings are political or personal but even if they are personal, how many Africans do they have to kill to avenge the death of one man?" Chukwudi asked.




AMMAN PLAZA

Valentine's



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and the delicious buffet all prepared
for this occasion at the Coffee Shop.

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Expatriates have it both ways

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE HOUSING BANK and Petra Bank have announced a plan to finance the purchase or building of housing units in the country for Jordanian expatriates working in the Gulf. Both banks would underwrite 67 to 70 per cent of the cost of the house while the National Bank of Oman would cover the balance. This means a 100 per cent financing. No down payment is required from the beneficiaries. The loan is to be repaid over ten to fifteen years. Other terms and conditions were not disclosed.

This innovative project is worth consideration. It has both positive and negative aspects.

On the positive side we find that 30 per cent of the cost price would be remitted to the country in foreign exchange. This should help the balance of payments but only at the expense of increasing external indebtedness.

The implementation of the project at this sizeable scale would help the real estate sector, currently under stress. It might also encourage the start of other housing schemes because part of the required housing unit might be built anew and not merely bought from the market.

Finally, the project would create a commitment on behalf of expatriates to remit their future savings to the country, rather than keeping them out or invest in foreign currencies abroad.

On the negative side more points may be raised:
First, we observe that the expatriates went out to work and save, and not to borrow. They are expected to make remittances to cater for their families and finance their investments. The contemplated credit facility would reverse the flow of financing in the wrong direction.

Second, it may not be very wise to encourage the expatriates to undertake substantial repayment installments based on their current high income while working in the Gulf. Both the expatriates and the banks might find themselves in a difficult position should the expatriate lose his job and return to Jordan. Instead of starting a new life depending on his savings he may have to start with debt burden beyond his means.

Third, the building of new houses is certainly the least meaningful investment, especially from an expatriate's point of view. We have a shortage of tenants and a glut of houses. We may be better

off looking for alternative investments which would be of more use for both the expatriates and the national economy.

Fourth, owning a house in Amman, and especially a vacant house, would present a temptation for the expatriate to leave his work abroad and return to the country at the wrong time. Under unemployment circumstances we have to encourage our expatriates to continue working abroad as long as that was possible.

Fifth, it is quite surprising that the Housing Bank would cover up to 67 per cent of the cost of the house while it does not cover more than JD 7,000 in favour of residents. The wisdom behind this discrimination between expatriates and residents is not understood.

It is our view that the negative points outweigh the positive. This does not mean that we are against expatriates buying or building houses if they so wish. The expatriate is a citizen and has the full rights enjoyed by other citizens. If an expatriate wants to build a house in Amman, he can do so by complying with all terms and conditions and utilising all the facilities that are applicable and available to residents. He should not be asked whether he is an expatriate or a resident. Discrimination for or against expatriates is not justified under any circumstances.

Damage beyond repair

ISRAEL may temporarily rejoice in putting mines and booby traps in the path of the "ship of return," but the peaceful dialogue between the Palestinians and Israel will be irreparably damaged to the detriment of both sides. Surely, Israel's long arm has much to do with the various impediments and obstacles which have delayed the mission of peace of the ship of return. The policymakers in Israel, whether from the Likud or Labour vintage, have demonstrated once again that they cannot stomach peaceful dialogue with the Palestinians, no matter what form it takes. Has the world forgotten how Israel fought tooth and nail all efforts for dialogue between Israeli thinkers and parliamentarians with the representatives of the Palestinians on one pretext or another? Can the Israeli people be truly proud of their negative record on real communication and exchange of views with the principal party in the Arab-Israeli conflict? If free and peaceful contacts and direct negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis are perpetually denied, and all offers for direct expression of political aspirations and yearnings are constantly impeded, we are afraid that the people directly affected will be forced to conclude that they have no recourse left except to express their views by stones, bullets or worse. Is this the kind of message that the Israelis would want to convey to the Palestinian uprising? Surely the manifestation of raw power and arrogance towards the Palestinians are not the kind of catalysts for peaceful resolution of the Palestinian case that the people of the West Bank and Gaza are waiting for. The scores of Palestinian deportees and the men of good-will on board the "ship of return" cannot be construed as a threat to the security of Israel.

The worst civil scenario that the world could have expected was perhaps to deny the ship entry to the territorial waters of Israel. It never crossed our mind that Israeli complexes against dealing with the Palestinians would go to the extent of resorting to threats on the lives of the prospective captain and crew of the ship. We are truly saddened by the recent behaviour of the Israeli government with regard to the peaceful voyage aboard an unarmed vessel, especially coming as it does in the heels of Israel's brutal oppression of the Palestinians.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King reiterates Arab stand

IN his remarks to the French monthly magazine "Express", His Majesty King Hussein reiterated Jordan's stand on the Middle East problem and said the only way to bring about a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict was through convening an international peace conference, a mechanism which would secure the Palestinian people's national rights. The King's assertion came at a time when the Western media machine is pumping material about a visit to the region at the end of the current month by the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to sound out prospects for what was dubbed as encouragement to the parties concerned to enter into direct negotiations over the so-called autonomous rule in the occupied territories. Jordan has time and again reiterated its unwavering stand on any future negotiations which emanated from the Nov. 8-11 Amman Arab summit. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak also made it clear on many occasions that there were no intentions to go back to the concept of negotiations towards an autonomous rule compromise. In light of this conclusion, Washington should understand better the facts on the ground and it seems, from what we have been receiving about the forthcoming Shultz visit, that his mission would not be more than another futile dialogue. Nobody is against a revived U.S. involvement to push forward the peace process, but Washington should realise that any negotiations outside the frame of an international conference would lead to no where. It is also worth mentioning that the Arabs have never seized dialogue with the American administration and despite the fact that the talks with the Americans have borne no fruits. The Arabs are still opening their doors to negotiations with the hope that Washington understands the facts and rise to the level of responsibility of a superpower.

Al Dustour: National responsibility

THE Zionist crime Friday against worshippers in the mosques of Nablus, Hebron and Gaza Strip is yet another manifestation of the fact that Israel has become more and more immune to international denunciation for their arbitrary and oppressive measures against our people in the occupied territories. Against this backdrop of the current state of affairs, supported by the United States and "ratified" by the invalid Arab Nation which is even incapable of sending out any sign of protest, the Israeli enemy surges ahead with its series of inhuman crimes against women and children in the West Bank and Gaza. It is only reasonable to ask of what has happened to the efforts of the committee formed by the urgent meeting of the Arab foreign ministers last month. To ask about the committee is, in fact, to wonder about the responsibility of the Arab Nation towards what is going on in the occupied territories. The current state of affairs prompts us to rise to the responsibility and to assume a genuine role in defending our people against the Israeli aggression.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arabs get world support

THE Arab stand formulated at the Amman Arab Summit and His Majesty King Hussein's continued contacts with world leaders have resulted a world-wide support for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference as the only formula towards bringing about a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan, which has always sought peace in the region, views Washington's incomplete and trivial peace initiatives as not enough because they fall short of the ideal international perception to solve the problem. The American-backed Israeli attempts for a partial parity are basically designed to abort genuine efforts towards peace and to diminish the ongoing uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The Israeli community, the helm of which is led by a bunch of extremists of the like of Yitzhak Shamir, will not be able to maintain their drive of confiscating human rights or maintain their monopoly over the U.S. decision making.

U.S. Jews discover the Palestinians

By Anthony Lewis

STANFORD, California — When you see your best friend acting in a way that will ruin his life, do you pretend not to see? Do you insist to others that it is really not so bad as it looks? Do you tell yourself that it is his business, not yours?

Americans devoted to Israel should be asking such questions as they contemplate what is happening in the West Bank and Gaza. For Israel is on a path of mortal danger, to its character and even its existence. Those who remain silent at such a moment are not true friends.

During the 20 years of occupation the Jewish community in the United States has been largely silent about Israel's policy. The explanation given was that Israelis were on the line, and outsiders should not tell them

what to do. The theory sounds like a benevolent neutrality, but in practice it has been anything but neutral.

In that time U.S. Jewish organisations have led the way in urging American aid to Israel — without strings, without criticism. Israel is the largest U.S. aid recipient, now getting \$3 billion a year. And it gets generous private contributions from Americans.

The effect of all that aid has been to give powerful support, financial and political, to Israeli policy in the occupied territories. The policy that has amounted to creeping annexation. Israeli opponents of the policy were friends abroad really disagreed with it. Silence in America helped those in Israel who wanted to go on settling in the West Bank and

Gaza, making it harder for Israel ever to leave.

In the current crisis many American Jews have been troubled, not only by immediate Israeli tactics in putting down Palestinian protests but by the longer-term implications of holding on to the occupied territories. Some have voiced their concerns, among them leaders of important Jewish organisations.

But others continue to avert their eyes. They say, for example, that the U.S. press has been unfair in its portrayal of the Palestinian protests and Israeli response. But Israel's press has been just as blunt in reporting the instances of beating randomly selected Palestinians.

Another cause for concern is that some American Jewish leaders continue to deny the reality of

the grievances felt by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. For Jews to lack sympathetic understanding of a people denied control of their own lives seems especially sad.

The current chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, Morris B. Abram, issued a statement that spoke of the protests as designed "to terrorise and to undermine the foundations of a democratic society." He said the disturbances were "not just incidents of domestic unrest" but were "nothing less than a new form of warfare against Israel."

He said Israel was just trying to "restore normalcy to Gaza and West Bank."

Anyone who wants to know what "normalcy" meant for the Palestinians under the occupation

should read two extraordinary articles in the issues of The New Yorker dated Feb. 8 and Feb. 15. They are by an Israeli writer, David Grossman, who spent seven weeks in the West Bank last year, before the uprising. He wrote a book that was a best-seller in Israel; the New Yorker pieces are taken from it.

What Grossman shows is a life of humiliation for the Palestinians — of petty bureaucratic harassment and nighttime raids and blown-up houses. And he shows the inevitable result: The buildup of frustration and hatred.

One of the Palestinians Grossman meets says to him: "Start thinking about us as your future neighbors. In the end, we will be the people with whom you have to live here."

He goes on: "It's not the Japanese with whom you will have to come to an agreement of peace and trust, right? Even try — and I know that it is probably hard for you, right? — try, God forbid, to respect us."

American Jews should also try to think of Palestinians as human beings — with the usual human feelings of national pride, and they should speak out when they see the danger of Israel trying to control another nation.

The Economist, a conservative British magazine supportive of Israel, said: "If Israel is turning ugly, it is not because its army is inept but because it is a small Jewish nation which since 1967 has been sitting heavily on a small Palestinian nation." — The New York Times.

Panama has grown into U.S. military centre

By Bryna Brennan
The Associated Press

QUARRY HEIGHTS, Panama — The Southern Command, the focus of strained relations between the United States and Panama, has become the centre for U.S. military operations in Latin America, fighting governments, rebels and drug smugglers.

The command, initially created to protect the Panama Canal, took on those additional duties over the decades. Today, U.S. army, navy and air force personnel operating anywhere in Latin America respond to orders from the hillside headquarters of the command.

Called Southcom by its members, the command recently became the focus of the sharply deteriorating relations between the United States and Panama. Panamanian strongman Gen. Antonio Manuel Noriega, who has been indicted in Florida on charges of smuggling drug and laundering money, on Monday "rejected" the presence of the command in Panama. The officer corps of the defence forces he heads called for the removal of U.S. forces from Panama.

Noriega is the country's top military officer and de facto leader. He emerged as the top leader in Panama in 1983 and is widely regarded as retaining real power despite the election of a civilian government in 1985.

Dec. 31, 1999

According to the 1977 Panama Canal treaties, the 50-mile long

waterway linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the U.S. military bases along its shores will be turned over to Panamanians on Dec. 31, 1999.

Until that time, the United States is responsible for running the canal. The treaties say the bases are under the "complete control" of Washington.

"We've been making preliminary plans for withdrawal (in 1999)," Southcom spokesman

"Even after the treaties are fully implemented and the bases are turned over to Panama, the United States is committed under the pacts to guarantee the neutrality of the waterway 'indefinitely'."

William Ormsbee said. "Withdrawal is not synonymous with the end of Southcom."

Even after the treaties are fully implemented and the bases are turned over to Panama, the United States is committed under the pacts to guarantee the neutrality of the waterway "indefinitely."

Since the treaties went into effect in 1978, several military installations have been turned over to Panama, and the canal zone was dissolved as a legal entity.

Many Panamanian officers now live in the whitewashed wooden homes built for American personnel in the 1920s with neatly groomed lawns along streets that still bear English, rather than Spanish, names.

About 370 military men and

women are based at Southcom's Quarry Heights headquarters just outside Panama City. The other main installations are Howard Air Base, Fort Clayton, Fort Sherman and Fort William Davis.

Ormsbee said the U.S. government injected about \$200 million into the Panamanian economy in goods, services and salaries during 1986.

The Southern Command traced its beginnings to the arrival

of the marines in Panama in 1903, days after Panama, with encouragement from Washington, declared independence from Colombia. Army troops arrived in 1911, three years before the canal opened.

U.S. military strength in Panama peaked at 67,000 during World War II.

The U.S. Army School of the Americas was started in Panama in 1946 to train Latin American officers and foster anti-Communism. It became known among left-leaning Latin Americans as the "school of coups" for the instruction it provided to thousands of rightist officers from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, El

Salvador, Nicaragua and other countries. Under the treaties, the school was ordered out of Panama in 1984. It was moved to Fort Benning, Georgia. Southcom's primary job remains defence of the canal. But its duties have evolved over the years. It is responsible for U.S. military operations throughout Latin America, which have ranged from road building in Central America to a joint anti-narcotics drive in Bolivia. It handles the assignment of military advisers, including those in El Salvador to train troops in counterinsurgency to combat an 8-year-old guerrilla war.

U.S. army special forces, known as green berets, based at Fort Davis frequently are sent to Latin American countries as instructors.

Intelligence flights from Panama have been used to track the movements of Salvadorean guerrillas and troops of Nicaragua's leftist government. Navy ships off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts monitor communications in Nicaragua.

An orientation booklet put out by Southcom also says the command is responsible for "disaster relief, evacuation of U.S. citizens from endangered areas, strategic and tactical reconnaissance, countering international terrorism, subversion and illegal traffic of arms and drugs."

LETTERS

How many children have to die?

To the Editor:

LAST Friday, I was driving in the vicinity of a school which recently suffered the loss of one of its students. "Stop" signs are clearly placed but this seems to make no difference. I had to take avoiding action to prevent an accident. The driver was not a teenage "whiz" kid but a gentleman of about sixty years old. He was very polite and apologised for his mistake. Had that mistake involved the life of a child, I'm not sure "sorry" would have been enough.

What options do we have before another young life is needlessly lost? We could have policemen on constant patrol or we could protect all our schools by putting "sleeping policemen" or what the Americans call "speed bumps." These demand that the driver slows down sufficiently or he/she will damage his/her car. Alas it seems that the only way to protect our children is to do this. Fast driving in the vicinity of a school will damage your car. It is tragic that the only way we can get drivers to take care of our youngsters is to hit "their pockets," but it is not infinitely more tragic to buy a young child?

I strongly recommend that this be done in the neighbourhood of all our schools — government, private and foreign before another tragedy occurs.

Elizabeth Hanna
P.O. Box: 5144
Amman

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البحر الأحمر

Shortages of cooking oil, sugar are hot items in Egypt

By Dalia Baligh
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — In coffee-houses, newspapers and the People's Assembly, the biggest topic these days isn't Middle East politics.

It's cooking oil and sugar — the latest essential commodities to run short in Egypt, which imports 60 per cent of its food.

An exploding population and lack of foreign currency often cause shortages of critical staples. But cooking oil and sugar are particularly vital to the diet of rural peasants, who make up more than half of Egypt's population, and the urban poor.

Cooking oil is added to beans, the daily breakfast and dinner of the poor, and is used to fry vegetables, especially eggplant and potatoes, the usual peasant lunch. Egyptians consume so much sugar in tea, pastries and candy that the health ministry has begun a television campaign to convince people that more than six lumps a day is harmful.

The two shortages have been discussed in the Shura Council, a government body of experts that provides non-binding advice to President Hosni Mubarak and to parliament.

Sedki admits the shortages

And in the People's Assembly itself, Prime Minister Atef Sedki was taken to task about his ministers' statements denying the shortages. He admitted they weren't being entirely candid, but assured

parliament members that Egypt, once again, will get by.

Nobody disagrees on the cause of the shortages, which have also involved rice, flour and soap. A Shura Council report put it simply: "The widening gap between the amounts of food produced and consumed in Egypt since the beginning of the 1980s is the result of increased population and a huge increase in consumption."

Egypt's 51 million people grow by another million every nine months. With stagnant food production, population growth has transformed the country from a food exporter three decades ago to an importer of three-fifths of its food. The struggling economy, facing a foreign debt of \$44 billion, must find money for the imports.

No one seems to have a ready solution for the problem, other than increasing production. But that's easier said than done. Most Egyptians live in about 4 per cent of the country's area, the Nile River valley. There is little money for the costly process of reclaiming and cultivating desert land outside that zone.

Despite being among the world's great producers of cotton, the source of most cooking oil used in Egypt, the country must import more than 80 per cent of its needs. The cost of the imports is \$250 million a year, and the foreign currency isn't always available.

"We import 500,000 tons of cooking oil at a cost of \$500 a

ton," said Rifaat Saadawy, an official in charge of oil imports at the industry ministry.

"So the cooking oil crisis is connected with the foreign exchange crisis, and any shortage in foreign currency means a shortage in providing cooking oil for local consumption," Saadawy said.

Saadawy was quoted by the daily newspaper Al Akhbar. Similarly, despite expenses of cane in central Egypt, the country's farmers produce only about half enough sugar for local consumption, forcing imports of 700,000 tons at a cost of almost \$158 million last year.

A further complication is that many staple foods are distributed through expensive subsidy and ration systems. Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund and at the urging of the United States, the government has been trying to reduce the systems' burden on the national treasury.

For the past two years, it has reduced the number of subsidised items available at government stores or with ration cards from private markets. The items then show up at higher prices in private stores.

\$2.2b for subsidies

Despite the cutbacks, however, the government spent \$2.2 billion in the 1986-87 fiscal year on subsidies for food and other items. That's only \$675 million less than the subsidy bill in 1983-

84 and remains much higher than levels Washington and the IMF want.

The government does not want to eliminate or sharply reduce subsidies, lest it face a recurrence of food riots caused by price increases in 1977. More than 70 people died in those disturbances.

For peasants like Nawal Mohamedein, who lives at El Faronia, 30 miles north of Cairo, the system isn't working.

"The official price of a one-kilogramme bottle of oil was 80 piasters (36 cents), but now it's not available in the shops," she said. "I have to buy it from the black market for 3.5 pounds (\$1.60) a bottle. It has limited our food to next to nothing."

She said the expensive oil means she rarely is able to serve the normal midday meal of eggplant and potatoes, turning to bread and cheese instead.

State-run and opposition newspapers have bombarded the ministry of supply with criticism over the shortages.

Humour columnist Ahmed Ragab of the daily Al Akhbar is in the forefront. In a recent column, he joked that to cover up shortages, the ministry starts rumours about the food in short supply.

"Beware of eating grains because they cause the pancreas to swell," Ragab wrote, "and beware of eating anything else, because it will shrink your pancreas."

Signed: The Supply Ministry.

Egypt tries to spruce up its garbage collectors

By Bahgat Badie
Reuters

CAIRO — The Cairo authorities are getting some of the Egyptian capital's garbage men to clean up their act by swapping their ramshackle, filthy donkey carts for trucks.

A drive to replace the wooden carts, used for generations to collect refuse in this city of 12 million people, started in January with a pilot project on the River Nile islands of Zamalek and Roda.

The garbage collectors, called zabaleen, now picking up the rubbish from the back doors of apartments and villas are the same men as before.

But some now wear overalls instead of their usual rags as they tote baskets of refuse to new trucks, 20 of which have been bought by the city with U.S. aid.

For the donkeys, it means a better deal. Some of the Zamalek zabaleen have sold their beasts, worth an average 500 pounds (\$230), to work in the countryside.

It is open to question, however, whether the new system will last and be extended beyond Roda and Zamalek, a wealthy suburb where many foreign diplomats live, to other areas.

Many Cairenes, accustomed to the sight and smell of the donkey carts, say they will never be replaced completely.

Some zabaleen say the scheme won't work because people won't pay the extra costs.

"This project is a failure and the government wants to give the impression that it is successful," 38-year-old dustman Awad Madan told Reuters.

City officials say residents who refuse to pay the 2.75 pound

(\$1.25 dollar) monthly fee for garbage collection will be fined five times that amount — as though they had just dumped their rubbish in the street.

Zabaleen themselves appear resistant to the change.

"It's like putting on trousers for the first time after wearing a galabeya (a flowing robe) all your life," said Awad's brother, Said.

The project is one of several over the years to improve the lot of the zabaleen, a semi-outcast group who depend on garbage for a living.

They recycle most of the rubbish they collect — keeping waste food to breed pigs and sending broken glass, tin and paper to factories.

"We make use of every single item found," one said.

Their open carts, pulled by one to three donkeys, trundle slowly

down into the city each dawn from the rubbish dumps near the Mokattam hills, southeast of Cairo, and back again laden with raw garbage buzzing with flies.

It's one of the capital's colourful sights that many Egyptians are prepared to consign to history.

One member of parliament, praising the new pilot project, described the carts as an affront to the image of a proud, ancient city that boasts a brand new underground railway and is modernising its sewage, telephone and other public services.

Organisers of the scheme say it will not deprive the zabaleen of their livelihood but will improve conditions.

"They will continue to enjoy the same rights and do the same job they have been doing for generations," said Randa Fahmy, a coordinator of the project

I'm sorry — I'll read that again

An important part of management training is concerned with becoming an efficient communicator. Michael Skapinker reports on his unusual introduction to public speaking.

ON an afternoon when sensible people were out doing their last-minute Christmas shopping, I found myself in a London office talking to a video camera about the painful problems that cowboys used to have with the crotch of their Levi overalls.

It is a riveting story. Many have winced at it, among them executives from American Express, Peugeot, BP, Saudi International Bank, and other companies — as they too have read it to the camera. The anecdote is part of the Kingtree group of consultants' training on how to become an effective communicator.

Kingtree, along with the rest of us, has noticed how many speakers ruin promising material with leaden delivery and poor timing. Many executives prove the point with their reading of the tale of the cowboys and their Levi's.

Why were the Levi's so uncomfortable? According to the script that Kingtree gives its clients, the original overalls used to have copper rivets on their pockets and a single rivet at the crotch. It was this lone rivet which caused the problems. When cowboys crouched too long at the campfire, they began to suffer from a painful condition known as Hot Rivet Syndrome.

Three generations of cowboys had to endure this hazard. Then in 1933, Walter Haas, the president of Levi Strauss, went on a camping trip to the High Sierras. One night, beside a crackling campfire, he too fell victim. At the next board meeting, the directors voted the crotch rivet into extinction.

The story seems a perfect beginning to a speech on how important it is for managers to put themselves in their customers' shoes — or overalls. It should also get a laugh from the audience.

Later, when I watched my own rendering of it on the video, I realised I would have been lucky to raise a few polite smiles. It was all too obvious that I was reading material that had been written by

someone else. Lee Bowman, Kingtree's managing director, says he encourages clients to try to get their own personality across, rather than attempting to learn someone else's public presentation techniques.

The Kingtree trainers begin each session by asking clients about their work and their previous public speaking experience. The Levis exercise follows. Like many Kingtree clients, I did

The result, according to John Miers, my tutor, was like pouring oil too quickly into a funnel. I was giving my audience too much to take in at a time.

He asked me to start reading from the beginning again. This time he asked me to slow down. Look down at the script only briefly, he said. Just long enough to take in a few words. Then look at the camera for a while before you say the words. Carry on looking at it after you have spoken and only then return to the script.

The result seemed slightly ridiculous. "Some three," lengthy pause, "generations of cowboys," protracted silence, "suffered with this," pause, "unusual occupational hazard."

That, Miers said when I had finished reading the story, was far easier to follow than the original "fluent" attempt.

I looked disbelieving. The camera, however, never lies, and we settled down to look at my various efforts on the video.

I discovered that, apart from my two readings of the anecdote, Miers had also recently filmed our original chat. Watch where you pause in your everyday conversation, Miers said. All over the place, I noticed. In the middle of sentences. Halfway through a thought.

We then watched my two attempts at the Levis story. As unnatural as the second reading had seemed, I had to admit that it bore a closer resemblance to real conversation and was significantly easier to listen to.

Kingtree does not recommend the second method as a permanent public speaking technique. Real clients, who pay up to £500 a session, will come back for more training.

All the first session aims to do

is encourage managers to use their own conversational style. "That's your standard of excellence," Miers said. "And you can't change it. Anything else looks phoney." — Financial Times feature.



Men gather in cafes to play backgammon, viewed as the world's oldest board game (Photo by Melanie Friend)

Men of the Rawda keep Arab tradition

By Charles Wallace

DAMASCUS — A blue haze fills the Rawda cafe, constantly replenished by elderly men puffing on the narghile, an elaborate water pipe that begins with a rubber hose and ends at a thumbnail-size ember of tobacco.

Waiters in dirty grey aprons move among the tables, precariously balancing tiny cups of strong Turkish coffee, glasses of heavily sweetened Arab tea, and tongs holding heated tobacco coals for the pipes. The Rawda, steps away from the parliament building, is filled with boisterous conversation and clattering dice.

The men at the cafe — women dare not invade an Arab cafe — are middle-aged and beyond, while away a winter's afternoon. The scene is commonplace throughout the Arab World: Men gathered for coffee and gossip, smoking and playing taawil backgammon.

Backgammon has been the pastime of the Middle East for centuries. Rare is the Arab house

without the carved wooden board and counters.

"I have played every day for 40 years," says Kamal Bay, a retired government employee, as his hands move from dice to counters in a practiced blur.

Sadd Saleh, Bay's elderly and long-suffering opponent, interjects: "It's a tradition in Syria. I couldn't imagine life without it."

"Every Arab is an expert at backgammon," Nassan said. "Chess is too hard. Backgammon is more amusing and you can talk while you play."

It is widely regarded as the oldest board game in the world. Evidence of the game found at a Middle Eastern archaeological site is believed to date from 3000 B.C.

The game was known throughout the early Middle East and Persia as nard, and it is similar to the Roman game known as ludus duodecim scriptorum, the "game of 12 lines," on which the Emperor Nero is said to have bet vast sums of money. It soon became known as tabula, or table a name

it retains in Arabic taawil. The French, delighted by the sound of the dice against wood, called it tric-trac.

The first known European book about games, published in 1283 by the Spanish king known as Alfonso the Learned, contains a drawing of six noblemen and a king playing backgammon. The Arabs took the game to Spain.

"For some reason, backgammon became the rage of the Ottoman Empire," said Afif Bahmani, Syria's director of antiquities. "It really spread across the Arab World with the Turks, and it stayed behind when they left."

The long history of the game is evoked today in the tiny cafes of Damascus, where men lapse into Persian and Turkish to call out the numbers on the dice: in Turkish bir, iki, say, dourtz (one, two, three, four).

In the West, most backgammon enthusiasts play a single game, the rules of which were formalised in the 18th century by the Englishman, Edmond Hoyle.

The Arabs refer to this game as franjich, or frankish, apparently an unflattering reference to the fact that the game was played by Christian Crusaders invading the Holy Land.

In the Middle East, backgammon is very much a part of an oral tradition. There are no published guides on winning, or even any how-to-books.

"It's something you don't learn," said Najib Saleh, who has been playing for 45 years. "You just get used to it. After a while you develop your own strategy."

A recent American visitor to a backgammon cafe was told that betting is not permitted because it violates a municipal ordinance and Islam's holy book, the Koran. But everyone in the cafe winked at this.

"Backgammon has the advantage of being endlessly original," says Nassan, the antique dealer. "In 25 years of playing, I've never played the same game twice, which is more than you can say for most things in life." — Los Angeles Times.

Latest in men's fashion is frequently fanciful

By Suzy Patterson
The Associated Press

PARIS — As four days of fall and winter menswear showings concluded Monday, it was obvious that Paris was bent on enticing men out of their old grey suits — the creations ranged from fanciful to fantastic.

The International Menswear Salon at the Porte de Versailles attracted 900 exhibitors from 25 countries, in addition to about 50,000 buyers and journalists.

On the runways around Paris, creators were showing both zany clothes and good ideas for men who would like to look a little wild on weekends.

Deconstructed, round-shouldered blazers and belted jackets, huge greatcoats or belted short trenches and lots of new colour were some overall trendy winners. Pants on the wild side were

unpleated but gathered at the belted waist.

Way-out guys will shrug their shoulders into padded but sloped looks, wear jackets buttoned up to the breastbone, sport some bicoloured lapels, or wear little-boy collars on pea jackets.

Less leather

Claude Montana's collection was full of strong ideas with an eye to colourful fashion. The collection featured less leather than usual, with an occasional lambskin blouson or a toggle-buttoned duffel in acid green with fur lining.

Yohji Yamamoto's sober collection based mainly on navy blue was a mix of cockneys, schoolboys and chimney sweeps. Pea jackets, undergraduate scarfs and a burst of colours in suspended

pants added fun. Angelo Tarlazzi not only showed lots of belted suits, but wrapped many models in shawls, or draped them in vests or sweaters knotted at the waist, touches borrowed from women's wardrobes.

Pierre Cardin displayed colourful blazers, ties and contrasting pants in a classical vein. But his touch of wit surfaced in outfits such as a wide basque belt paired with a burnt-orange shirt, topped with a swirly straw hat borrowed from his women's collection.

Yves Saint Laurent's striking and solidly commercial men's collection was designed by Bernard Sanz, lured away from his former job as menswear designer for Hermes.

The collection showed touches of colour and luxury fabric. For sport, there were fur-collared

long parkas, forest green suede blousons, even fringed Western-style jackets with padded but natural shoulders.

Jean-Paul Gaultier seemed to borrow his theatrical clothes from Sherwood Forest. Robin Hood and his merry men pranced around in hats shot with arrows, body-suit vests and jackets fastened under the crotch over shiny harlequin or diagonally-striped pants. The multicoloured pointed-toe shoes were great for kicking up their little heels.

Issey Miyake's collection resembled sinister maitre d's at an exotic restaurant. The models wore simple white silk shirts notched in front over ultra-soft leather or tuxedo-fabric wool. Their skull-capped heads sported a stiff braid. Instead of ties, they wore wiry little horsehair dragonflies.



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هذه احدى الاموال

Liverpool trounces Watford Biggest, most lavish Winter Games begin with befitting colourful extravaganza

LONDON (Agencies) — The Liverpool goal machine ruthlessly disposed of Watford Saturday as the runaway English First Division leader romped to another victory in its relentless charge towards the championship title.

John Barnes celebrated his return to his former club by scoring the final goal in a 4-1 away success as Liverpool remained unbeaten in the league since the start of the season back in August.

After 26 matches, Kenny Dalglish's team, 12 points clear of the pack, edged ever closer to Leeds United's First Division record of unbeaten matches. Leeds went 29 games without defeat in the 1975-4 season.

Watford, which had lost only one of eight league and cup games since the arrival of manager Steve Harrison, started brightly and gave Liverpool some anxious moments in the wind and rain.

But after 29 minutes, Peter Beardsley's left-foot drive gave the visitors the lead and from then on, Liverpool pulverised the Watford defence with a performance of dazzling skill on a treacherous pitch.

A goal up at halftime, Liverpool tripled its lead within five minutes of the restart with strikes by John Aldridge and another from Beardsley. Barnes added number four on the hour before Luther Blissett scored a consolation goal for the hosts.

"Not only do we play well, we battle well too and that's what we had to do today," Barnes said. "We are bound to lose sometime, but as to when and where, who knows?"

Liverpool have a 12-point lead and two games in hand over second-placed Manchester United, who won 2-1 at Chelsea, while Nottingham Forest remain in third place, 17 points behind the leaders, after a 1-1 draw at Southampton.

Defender Steve Bruce, Manchester United's recent signing from Norwich, scored his first goal for his new club and midfielder Liam O'Brien scored the second a minute later.

Forest trailed to a 38th-minute strike by Colin Clarke but Nigel Clough seized the equaliser 60 seconds before halftime.

Manchester United, who recently ousted Chelsea from the F.A. Cup, sustained the London club's unhappy season. They had made an encouraging start but it was ended by the rapid double blow from Bruce and O'Brien, although Chelsea reduced the deficit through substitute Colin West in the 82nd minute.

CALGARY (Agencies) — The biggest and most lavish Winter Olympics ever opened Saturday with a traditional torch lighting, a colourful parade of athletes and an expected return of Arctic air.

And weather forecasters issued a warning to 60,000 spectators planning to attend: bundle up. Temperatures were expected to dip to minus 8 degrees C (18 degrees F) early Saturday, forecasters said, making the weather at the opening ceremonies "unpleasant."

But Olympic organisers insisted frigid weather wouldn't stop the show.

The cold weather follows a Chinook, warm wind blowing over the Canadian Rockies, that gave this city of 650,000 people springlike weather for two days.

Mild weather was forecast to return to Calgary Monday, the second full day of competition.

The two-hour opening ceremony, which sold out 18 months ago, was to begin at 2000 GMT at McMahon Stadium near the University of Calgary campus. Olympic officials estimated as many as two billion people were to watch the ceremony on television.

"This is the most difficult show I've ever done," said Stan Jacobson, who helped executive producer Paddy Sampson with part of the show.

Canadian Governor-General Jeanne Sauve was to officially open the Winter Games of the 15th Olympiad, and the Olympic torch will complete an 89-day, 17,850-kilometre trans-Canada journey.

The 1.5-kilogramme torch was flown from Greece, the historic homeland of the Olympics, to St. John's Newfoundland on Nov. 17, and then carried by more than 6,500 Canadians on snowmobiles, ferries, helicopters, skis and skates across some of Canada's most rugged terrain.

With the flame burning at McMahon Stadium, the centre-piece of the show was the procession of 1,789 athletes representing a record 57 nations, led by the eight-member team from Greece.

Organisers of the Calgary Games worked nearly three years on the opening ceremony, which includes an 11-minute "Rocky Mountain salute to the 15th Winter Games."

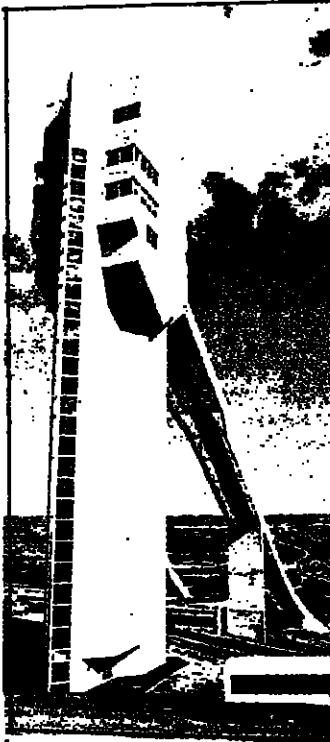
Specific details were being kept



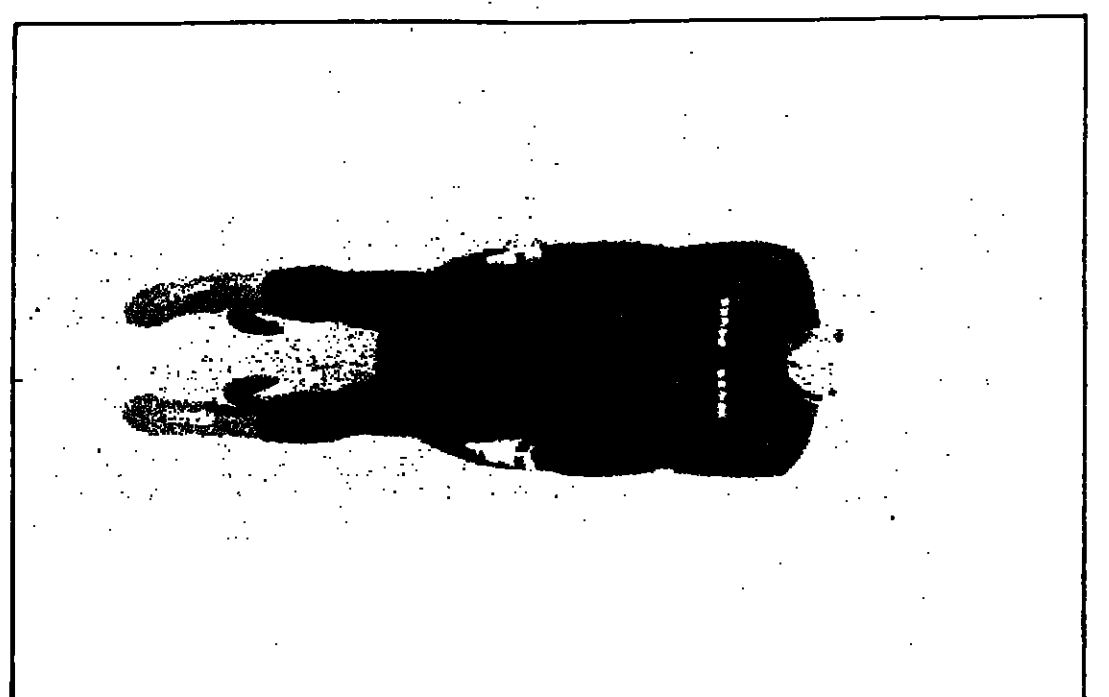
The Olympic Oval at Calgary where speed-skating events will be held



The bobsleigh and luge track at Canada Olympic Park is one of the most technologically advanced bobs/luge facilities in the world



The 90-metre ski jump



To slide is human but the residents of northern Italy turned the luge into a sport

The 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics in figures

CALGARY (AP) — The Winter Olympics in numbers:
Games: XV
Days: 16
Cost: \$900 million.
Countries: 57
Athletes accredited: 1,789
Coaches: 1,100
Smallest delegation of athletes: 1 (Belgium, the Fiji Islands, Guam, Luxembourg, the Philippines)
Largest delegation of athletes: 164 (the United States)
Sports: 10
Venues: 9
Events: 46
Medals: 138
Mascots: 2
Media: 4,500
Residents in Calgary: 640,000
Visitors expected: 100,000
Souvenir pins: Approximately 250,000

Price paid by ABC for TV rights: \$309 million.
International Olympic Committee members: 88
National Olympic Committees: 167
Winter sports federations: 6
Calgary Games sponsors: 18
Calgary Games suppliers: 27
Calgary Games licensees: 41
Calgary Games volunteers: 10,000
Jobs created: 14,000
Distance Olympic torch travelled in Canada: 18,000 kilometres
Torch bearers: 6,500
Torch weight: 1.5 kilogrammes
Seats at Saddledome, main arena for hockey and figure skating: 19,000
Seats at McMahon Stadium, site of opening and closing ceremonies: 60,000
Seats at Olympic Oval, arena for speed skating: 4,000
Tickets printed: 1.9 million.

1988 WINTER OLYMPICS

under wraps and the people who know weren't talking.

"We want this to be a mystery, a who done it," said Terry Steward, head of media information at the Winter Games. "We don't want to spoil it."

Despite their best efforts, a few details had leaked out.

Thousands of people were to participate, including Indians on horseback, square dancers and about 6,000 schoolchildren dressed in a variety of costumes and waving colourful flags. They have been seen entering McMahon Stadium for rehearsals.

There has been talk around

Calgary that white sand has been trucked in for the ceremonies after two days of warm weather and hot television lights have been melting the snow on the stadium field.

Ice hockey fires the salvos

The first salvos of Olympic competition were being fired by ice hockey players from Czechoslovakia and West Germany before Governor Sauve was scheduled to conclude her welcome speech to the world which traditionally mark the games' opening.

The two teams were timetabled to begin their Pool B match nearly 45 minutes before the end of the long-awaited and closely-guarded two-hour extravaganza.

Around 60,000 people were expected to brave the cold and pack McMahon Stadium to watch the multi-coloured festival of music and dance which will climax with the lighting of the Olympic flame.

Organisers plan to release 25,000 helium filled balloons and

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Water Authority of Jordan announces that the bid opening date is extended to Tuesday March 8, 1988, at 12.00 noon, Jordan local time, instead of the previous date.

Eng. Muttaz Belbeisi
Acting President
Water Authority

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English and Scottish SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

LONDON (R) — English and Scottish league soccer tables after matches played Saturday.

English League Division One

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Liverpool	26	20	6	0	63	12	66
Manchester United	28	15	9	4	43	27	54
Nottingham Forest	26	14	7	5	50	24	49
Everton	26	13	7	6	38	16	46
Arsenal	27	13	6	8	39	26	45
Queen's Park Rangers	27	12	7	8	32	30	43
Wimbledon	27	11	9	7	40	31	42
Luton	26	11	5	10	40	32	38
Sheffield Wednesday	27	11	4	12	33	42	37
Tottenham	27	9	7	11	26	31	34
Southampton	27	8	9	10	35	39	33
Newcastle	26	8	9	9	31	38	33
West Ham	27	7	11	9	29	35	32
Chelsea	28	8	7	13	34	47	31
Portsmouth	28	6	12	10	27	44	30
Norwich	27	8	5	14	26	34	29
Coventry	25	7	7	11	27	39	28
Derby	25	6	6	13	22	32	24
Oxford	26	6	6	14	32	53	24
Watford	27	5	8	14	18	36	23
Charlton	27	4	9	14	24	41	21

Scottish League Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Celtic	32	21	9	2	59	20	51
Rangers	33	21	6	6	64	22	48
Heart of Midlothian	33	17	13	3	62	26	47
Aberdeen	33	16	13	4	47	21	45
Dundee	32	14	6	12	59	42	34
Dundee United	33	12	10	11	37	36	34
Hibernian	33	9	13	11	31	35	31
St. Mirren	32	7	11	14	33	49	25
Motherwell	33	9	6	18	26	46	24
Falkirk	32	6	8	18	30	59	20
Dunfermline	32	5	8	19	24	63	18
Morton	32	2	9	21	22	75	13

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مركز الفنون

Ten Jordanian companies complete merging process

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Investments Corporation (JIIC) has completed all procedures merging nine diversified private-shareholding companies under its umbrella, according to an announcement by the comptroller of companies at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply.

At an extraordinary session held last month, the JIIC general assembly endorsed the financial statements of the ten companies and formally approved the creation of the new entity which retained the name of Jordan Industrial Investments Corporation.

The companies which merged with JIIC are the following:

- (1) The Jordan Department Stores (Al Waha Stores).
- (2) Jordan Management and Consultancy Corporation.
- (3) Overall (Jordan) Company.
- (4) Jordan Solar Energy Company.
- (5) Jordan Electrolighting Company.
- (6) Jordan Metal Furniture Industries.
- (7) Arab Metal Industries.
- (8) National Cast Iron Industries.
- (9) Jordan Free Trade Company.

JIIC is a public-shareholding company established in 1980. It has recorded a JD 217,083 net income after tax in 1982 but rapidly weakened and posted a loss of JD 521,097 in 1985, the latest year for which financial information is available.

Two weeks ago, the minister of industry, trade and supply formed a committee to manage the operations of JIIC. The committee comprises representatives of banks and financial institutions which had given loans to JIIC and the other companies.

The Saturday's announcement by the comptroller of companies said that the new capital of JIIC was raised to JD 12.5 million spread over 12.5 shares each carrying a nominal value of JD 1.

This capital increase was achieved after restructuring the equity base through writing-off some losses and capitalising some loans.

Other points in the announcement reduced the number of the board of directors from 11 to nine and empowered the board to redistribute the shares according to the new capital after restructuring.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — Trading Saturday amounted to 418,658 shares for a total value of JD 519,498. The highest number of shares traded (80,689) were those of Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments which is 50 per cent paid-up. Shares of the Universal Chemical Industries and National Cable and Wire Manufacturing ranked in second and third places with 55,350 shares and 42,800 shares respectively. In terms of value, Universal Chemical Industries was the most costly as it amounted to JD 106,726 with the price going up from JD 1.860 a share to JD 1.980. Trading in the Arab Aluminium Industries shares amounted to JD 58,129 while National Cable and Wire Manufacturing shares amounted to JD 42,795. The total number of contracts executed Saturday stood at 605 with 120 of them related to trading in shares of the Universal Chemical Industries. At the close of the session there was no offers to sell Arab Bank shares which were earlier traded at JD 120.900 and JD 121.000. There was also no offers to sell or buy shares of Jordan Gulf Bank which closed at JD 1.180.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Knight Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your judgment will be unusually sharp today, so be sure to take advantage of any opportunities which seem lucrative. Stop daydreaming all the time, and put your good ideas into action.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) By making a new plan you can put into effect those changes which have been on your mind. Be more thoughtful of your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try to be more time-efficient in the days ahead by planning a schedule and sticking to it. Don't allow anyone to sway your opinions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Join forces with an important acquaintance who can help you to become better organized. This should be a very memorable day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Pay special attention to matters involving your health today. You can find some good financial opportunities in the newspaper.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 23) You'll have some free time today, so use it constructively by planning your schedule for the coming week. Be happy with your mate tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 23) Your

activities should be centered at home today; try to be helpful to your family. Go out on the town for entertainment tonight.

LIBRA (Sep. 24 to Oct. 23) It would be wise to stay at home this evening, so invite some interesting friends into your abode and have a charming night together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study your property and figure out how you can best improve it. Make a plan for this tonight. Try to improve the condition of your budget.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may come across a plan for expanding your business interests, but don't get in over your head. Meet with some friends tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you have a new project in mind, discuss it only with those people who you know you can trust. Don't be too secretive with your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can make some progress at attaining a personal wish if you set your mind to it. Try to be more helpful to your mate tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) To avoid any last minute oversights, a necessary trip should be planned now. Look to a good friend for an important favor you need.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Feb. 6, '88 and ending Wednesday, Feb. 10, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	450	578	1.280	1.290	1.000
Petra Bank	29384	63038	2.100	2.150	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1280	2342	1.830	1.830	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	11200	18693	1.680	1.660	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	1090	1271	1.160	1.170	1.000
Housing Bank	3541	5632	1.580	1.590	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	5875	12050	2.100	2.100	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	160	4362	27.000	27.500	5.000
Bank of Jordan	4170	68089	16.500	16.500	5.000
Arab Bank	170	20651	121.500	121.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	18730	45492	2.430	2.430	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	9300	11236	1.260	1.220	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	7672	10830	1.920	1.900	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	8730	5570	0.650	0.630	1.000
National Financial Investments	1000	1520	1.530	1.520	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	32785	25235	0.760	0.770	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Masek Exchange	100	1450	14.500	14.500	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	2978	18621	6.200	6.290	1.000
REPCO Life Insurance	4668	5601	1.210	1.200	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yamouk Insurance and Reinsurance	1940	2134	1.100	1.100	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Insurance	5307	6793	1.280	1.280	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	400	368	0.920	0.920	1.000
Universal Insurance	100	74	0.740	0.740	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Izhib Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Alhilya Insurance	700	913	1.320	1.300	1.000
Arab Belgin Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	3000	3900	1.280	1.300	1.000
Imra for Investment and Financial Facilities	19242	12215	0.630	0.630	1.000
Danco for Housing and Investment	49650	21851	0.440	0.440	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Agarco)	800	344	0.430	0.430	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	17817	5852	0.320	0.330	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	106122	14324	0.610	0.650	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	5625	8266	1.470	1.470	1.000
Arab District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	100	420	4.250	4.200	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	2000	1620	0.810	0.810	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	200	410	2.150	2.050	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	24100	9670	0.410	0.400	1.000
Jordan Dairy	9823	10210	1.060	1.040	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	16224	33981	2.160	2.160	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	123130	17848	1.430	1.440	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	814	1954	2.400	2.400	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intal)	12548	18716	1.360	1.510	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	12530	59665	4.850	4.560	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	34350	45980	1.320	1.320	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	118978	229253	1.900	1.950	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	519	2311	4.500	4.500	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	500	530	1.060	1.060	1.000
Chemical Industries	205825	363972	1.500	1.800	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	35992	27351	0.750	0.750	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	14153	21313	1.400	1.540	1.000
National Steel Industries	28250	75632	2.680	2.680	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	80760	146572	1.760	1.860	5.000
General Petroleum Refinery	5103	36253	7.100	7.200	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	841150	201989	0.250	0.220	1.000
National Industries	630	315	0.500	0.500	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	21200	7092	0.340	0.330	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	27453	33246	1.150	1.340	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	4200	3024	0.720	0.720	1.000
Jordan Pipes and Metal Manufacturing	12692	180220	1.150	1.150	1.000
Radia Industrial for Plastic B	100	80	0.800	0.800	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	3760	11010	2.890	3.000	1.000
Jordan Woodwork Industries	46525	31019	0.670	0.670	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Wooden Industries	934	455	1.900	1.950	1.000
Jordan Texting	60	219	3.000	3.500	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	2226	30051	13.200	16.900	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Max Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	67900	67002	0.970	0.980	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	41116	38610	0.940	0.950	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	62866	180220	3.110	3.090	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	103717	104803	1.000	1.030	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	25811	27730	1.090	1.070	1.000
Grand total	2,340,984	2,414,782			

Moneychanger set to become 12th bank in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia's biggest money-changer is expected to start operations as a fully licensed bank within days in a move which will rank it number three in the kingdom, bankers said Saturday.

The Al Rajhi Company for Currency Exchange and Commerce will become the 12th bank in Saudi Arabia and is due to operate as a bank from Feb. 18 under the new name Al Rajhi Banking and Investment Corporation.

The change will make it the third largest after National Commercial Bank and Riyadh Bank although plans for a public flotation of shares — first scheduled to coincide with the licence change — have been delayed, bankers

said. The owners of the company, four brothers of the Al Rajhi family, have been trying to convert the operation into a fully licensed Islamic bank since 1983.

Al Rajhi has 230 branches throughout the kingdom and is estimated to have more than 15 billion riyals (\$4 billion) in customer deposits.

It was previously able to perform most banking functions, but as a moneychanger was not allowed to make loans.

The new bank will be capitalised at 750 million riyals (\$300 million), with 50 per cent of the shares expected to be retained by the brothers.

Bankers said it is likely that 43 per cent of the new bank's capital will be floated publicly later in the year, with another two per cent to be offered to employees and five per cent to founding shareholders.

The impact of the new operation on the kingdom's 11 commercial banks — which operate along Western lines — remains unclear but few bankers believe Al Rajhi will be in head-on competition because its business is based on Islamic principles.

Belgian, Dutch banks form alliance

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Belgium's largest bank Friday announced it entered a "banking alliance" with one of the biggest Dutch banks to form the fourth largest financial group in Europe.

The Dutch Amro Bank and the Belgian Generale De Banque S.A. will try to set up "an integrated multinational banking group within three years," said Generale De Banque's Chairman Eric De Villegas De Clercamp.

The operation also makes the bloc one of the top 20 groups in the world on the basis of deposits, officials said.

Both banks will subscribe to a capital increase of about 135 million European Currency Units (\$165 million) launched for the purpose by each, which will give each bank a stake of 9.99 per cent in the capital of the other.

De Villegas De Clercamp denied that the agreement had been made with Amro to head off a possible bid by Italian investor Carlo De Benedetti, who is trying to take effective control of Societe Generale De Belgique S.A., Belgium's biggest holding company.

Societe Generale has a 13.4 per cent stake in Generale De Banque. Referring to the battle for control of Societe Generale, De Villegas De Clercamp said the circumstances of the bid gave rise to the feeling that the clients' trust and confidence may have been shaken.

He said Societe Generale, which has three seats on the bank's board, had given general approval for the project but when it came to a vote, the three

representatives had abstained "for personal reasons." He did not elaborate.

Although Generale De Banque is Belgium's largest commercial bank, it is only the 26th in the European league table. Amro Bank is one of the top three Dutch commercial banks.

Deposits of Generale De Banque amounted to \$52.047 billion while Amro Bank's deposits were \$58.343 billion, based on 1986 statistics.

The Generale De Banque chairman said the two banks were forming the alliance to prepare for 1992 when a single European market will be established.

The 1992 "deadline" means that banks must prepare "for the intense competition which must be faced," said the executive.

Canada's trade surplus shrinks

OTTAWA (AP) — Canada's merchandise trade surplus shrank to 208 million Canadian dollars (about \$164 million) in December, the lowest monthly surplus since September 1981, Statistics Canada said Friday.

The December surplus, down from a revised 402 million Canadian dollars in November, left the full year's surplus at the lowest

level in seven years.

The 1987 surplus totalled 10.3 billion Canadian dollars (about \$8.1 billion), down marginally from 10.4 billion Canadian dollars in 1986, the agency said.

The surplus with the United States, Canada's most important trading partner, declined to 17 billion Canadian dollars from 18.4 billion Canadian dollars in

1986. Paul Kovacs, senior economist at the Burns Fry Investment House in Toronto, said he had expected 1987 would have ended with a much stronger trade surplus.

"We clearly had a deteriorating trend at the end of the year, which is disturbing," said Kovacs.

EC agrees curbs on farm spending

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Leaders of the 12-nation European Community (EC) early Saturday reached agreement on curbing agricultural spending, ending more than a year of financial crisis after significant concessions by austerity-minded Britain.

The accord set production limits on the most expensive crops: Grains and oilseeds and proteins, with penalty price cuts for surpluses.

It also boosted aid to poorer members and provided for increased revenues for the EC

budget by calculating levies on gross national product and on national sales tax receipts, instead of just the tax receipts.

The agreement cleared the way for the EC to press ahead with grander plans for dismantling all trade barriers by 1992.

The community agreement boosted by 80 per cent over the next five years regional aid to the four poorest members, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland.

The increase, bringing regional aid to 13 billion European Currency Units (\$16.25 billion) by

1992, compared with a 50 per cent rise favoured by the rich northern states, including Britain, France and West Germany.

The agreement, although short of the stringent curbs sought by Britain and The Netherlands, was widely regarded as a bonus for the United States and other trading partners of the Community by setting new limits on the EC's heavily subsidised farm exports.

The agreement set a 27.5 billion European Currency Units (\$34.4 billion) limit on farm spending in 1988.

THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jambor Jr.

ACROSS

- Computer info
- Man
- Crude mixture
- Mosque priest
- Nautical word
- Month
- Info machines
- Musical
- Strain
- Bridge abbr.
- Produced
- Drunkard
- Snogget
- Cosier d'
- Craz
- Headliner
- Ten
- Occurrences
- Brewing stuff
- wilt
- (metaphor)
- Recent info
- Fragrances
- Singles
- Many men
- Ice mass
- Wading birds
- Undermine
- Holeo items
- Civet cat
- In flight
- Asian weight
- Stewhouse
- Wipe out
- assa
- amat
- Obervable
- Gatherers of
- 13 Winglike
- Intrinsically
- Eylum
- Plitzer
- Verbalizer
- Comforted
- Traditional
- Info
- Puss

DOWN

- Word info bk.
- Web, prophet
- Ram down
- Elec. unit
- Slalom openings
- Shelly's "Adonise"
- Roman tyrant
- One who makes a will
- Affairs
- Kitchen bib
- Secret info
- source
- 12 Race distance
- 13 Winglike
- 18 Sub
- 22 Wrestling falls
- 25 Slip
- 26 First king of Egypt
- 27 Out genus
- 28 Info
- 29 Footwear
- 31 Dill plants
- 32 Dem
- 34 Wier
- 35 Feat light
- 36 Vase type
- 40 Spoken
- 42 Danted
- 44 Garson of
- 46 Not as good
- 50 Feat light
- 51 In union
- 52 Inside info
- 53 Space plant
- 54 Decorate
- 56 Flying prefix
- 57 TV talking
- 58 horse
- 59 Fleet city
- 61 Child

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. COMPUTER
2. MAN
3. CRUDE
4. MOS

Soviets blame U.S. for Black Sea collision

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union issued an official protest Saturday to the United States over a Friday incident in which Soviet and U.S. warships collided inside Soviet territorial waters in the Black Sea.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news conference two collisions occurred after the U.S. cruiser Yorktown and destroyer Caron "violated the Soviet border" off the southern coast of the Crimean Peninsula.

"Despite warning signals given by approaching Soviet vessels, the American ships did not react. Having intruded, the U.S. vessels manoeuvred dangerously, and this led to a collision," Gerasimov said.

Gerasimov said the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, Jack Matlock, was summoned to the Soviet Foreign Ministry Saturday, where Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh read him a "strong protest."

"The Soviet side cannot but view the actions of the United States Navy as aimed at undermining the process of improvement in Soviet-American relations which has appeared recently," Gerasimov said, quoting from the protest.

Gerasimov said all responsibility for the incident lay with the American side. "We can only hope that this will not hinder the process of improvement in relations between our countries, and in particular the forthcoming meetings between our defence and foreign ministers and the summit," Gerasimov said.

Addressing the same news conference, Soviet Naval Spokesman Rear-Admiral Nikolai Markov

denied that the Soviet ships had deliberately rammed the U.S. vessels.

"The Soviet commanders had no such intentions. The collisions took place as a result of dangerous manoeuvres by the American vessels," Markov said.

A U.S. State Department statement said Friday the two Soviet warships deliberately bumped the U.S. ships, which were "expressing their international right of innocent passage" through Soviet waters.

Moscow disputes the right of U.S. warships to manoeuvre within 12 miles of its Black Sea coastline, where the Soviet Union's southern fleet is based. "There is a law on ensuring the inviolability of the state border of the Soviet Union. There is no right of passage by warships through our territorial waters," Markov declared.

Explosions mark start of Dhaka general strike

DHAKA (AP) — At least half a dozen bombs exploded in Dhaka Saturday at the start of a two-day general strike, the latest called by the opposition to force the government out of power, witnesses said.

The explosions caused by homemade bombs were reported from a shopping centre near the Dhaka University campus, said the witnesses who spoke on condition of anonymity.

There was no report of injuries. But a bomb explosion on the eve of the strike Friday night left one person injured and a two-storey house damaged, police said.

Police suspect the victim was making a bomb when it accidentally exploded. He and an alleged accomplice were arrested.

In the old district two scooter rickshaws were set on fire Saturday, police said.

The dawn-to-dusk strike, which will run through Sunday, was called by the country's mainstream opposition parties to force President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, a 58-year-old former army general, to resign.

This is the 23rd general strike since the 21 opposition parties started their campaign Nov. 10. The opposition wants Ershad to quit and wants the March 3 parliamentary elections to be held under a neutral caretaker government. The 21 parties are boycotting the polls, saying that elections will be rigged to favour Ershad's governing Jatiya Party.

Ershad, who seized power in a coup in 1982, has refused to resign. Dhaka stores remained closed Saturday, and the strike halted most traffic in the city of 4 million residents. There were some bicycle-powered rickshaws operating.

Riot police stood guard at the city's main intersections, but they seemed relaxed. Some were seen leaning on their rifles, while others read morning newspapers on the sunbaked streets.

Indian army continues sweep of Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (AP) — About 15,000 Indian troops swept for Tamil rebels around Batticaloa in Sri Lanka's east Saturday as reports circulated that the Indians were planning a similar offensive in the north.

Sri Lankan military officials reached by telephone in Batticaloa said three prominent Tamil rebels surrendered during the sweep, which began Friday. At least 160 suspected rebels have been detained.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, declined to name the rebels. They said the Indians were withholding their identities for security reasons.

In Colombo, the Indian high commission (embassy) could not confirm the surrender report.

At least 50,000 Indian troops are in Sri Lanka to enforce a July 29 accord in which India pledged to help end the rebels' four-year guerrilla war for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east of the island nation.

The troops began a "cordon and search operation" in the 2,464-square-kilometre Batticaloa district to flush out Tamil rebels who refuse to surrender their arms and accept the Indian-

brokered peace pact.

Batticaloa is 230 kilometres east of Colombo.

Travellers and Tamil residents in northern Vavuniya and north-western Mannar districts reported a buildup of Indian military strength in the two areas.

"Thousands of Indian soldiers have been arriving in trucks since Thursday in Vavuniya district and are taking position all over," a Sri Lankan Tamil journalist said Saturday.

The troops were being moved from Trincomalee district in the northeast into the Vavuniya and Mannar areas, residents said by telephone. Both they and others who described the troop movements ask for anonymity for their safety.

Sri Lankan military officials estimate the total Indian military presence in Sri Lanka at over 70,000, about 20,000 more than the Indians admit to.

While the sweep continued in Batticaloa, home to 330,000 people, Indian helicopter gunships and naval boats patrolled the coasts to prevent Tamil rebels from fleeing, a Tamil member of the Batticaloa citizens committee said by telephone.

Over \$2b worth of heroin seized at Bangkok port

BANGKOK (AP) — Authorities Saturday said they intercepted 1.4 tonnes of top-grade heroin bound for New York worth more than \$2 billion on the street, in what was believed to be the world's largest single heroin bust.

The 1,280 kilograms of No. 4 grade heroin were hidden in bales of rubber sheets on a freighter at Klong Toey Port in Bangkok, said Vijoy Laophan, the director general of the customs department.

No. 4 grade heroin is 97 per

cent pure.

Vijoy said the drug was discovered when customs officials, acting on a tip, began opening the 665 bales earlier this week. Heroin had been found in 62 bales by the time the search was completed Friday night, he told a news conference.

The ship was to leave for New York later this month, authorities said.

"The packing in rubber sheets prevented police dogs from smelling the heroin," Vijoy said.

Four Direct Action leaders get 10-year prison sentences

PARIS (AP) — Four leaders of the leftist group Direct Action were convicted Friday of belonging to a criminal organisation and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Jean-Marc Rouillon, Nathalie Menigon, Joelle Aubron and Georges Cipriani, all on hunger strike for the past 72 days, also face trial on more serious charges, including murder, later this year.

Of the 15 other Direct Action members on trial with the leaders, including one tried in absentia, all but four were convicted of belonging to a criminal organisation. Their sentences ranged from suspended sentences to 10 years in prison.

In addition, two women were acquitted, and a man and a

woman were convicted on the lesser charge of "brigandage." They were given 18-month suspended sentences.

Rouillon, Cipriani, Menigon and Aubron were brought into court in wheelchairs, attended by nurses. They are being held at the hospital of the Fresnes prison in the Paris suburb.

The two-week trial, interrupted frequently by shouts and other demonstrations by the defendants, concluded Jan. 21 in the 14th correctional chamber of the Tribunal of Paris.

Direct Action surfaced in 1979, claiming responsibility for bombings and attacks on public buildings which at first caused no deaths or injuries.

Black students protest racial attack at U.S. university

AMHERST, Massachusetts (AP) — An estimated 200 black students took over a building at the University of Massachusetts to protest an attack on two students, the latest in a series of racial incidents at the school.

"We will remain as long as necessary," said sophomore Mark Collins-Dave. He said the group occupied the building Friday after receiving an "inadequate response" to a list of demands presented to Chancellor Joseph M. Duffey.

Spokeswoman Jeanne Hopkins-Stover said the group has agreed to meet with Duffey Saturday, but refused to allow him and other white administrators into the building, called The New Africa House.

The building was formerly a meeting house for black students, but the administration recently turned part of it into classrooms. One of the students' demands is that it be restored to its previous use.

"The chancellor went over there at 4 p.m., but they only wanted people of colour in the building," said Hopkins-Stover. "They may have locked the building."

The protesters were demonstrating against racial tensions that once have surfaced at the school. Ten students were injured in a racial clash following the final world series baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and New York Mets on Oct. 27, 1986.

In addition, two black students and the white girlfriend of one of the men filed complaints earlier this week against six white men. They alleged civil rights violations and assault and battery

stemming from a beating during the weekend.

The chancellor issued a statement Friday condemning the alleged attack after a delegation of black students presented him a list of demands.

The demands included the expulsion of the students accused of the beatings and the suspension of white campus police officers who apparently ordered a lineup of seven black men at a dorm when a white student said she was harassed by a black man.

Duffey's statement said two of the students allegedly involved in the beatings have been ordered to move out of the school's residence halls. All five students face disciplinary hearings within the next two weeks.

"It should be clear once again that the university will not tolerate physical abuse or racially associated attacks on others," the statement said. The chancellor issued a separate report to the head of campus police asking him to cease lineups in the future and saying, "the activity was most inappropriate, especially in this particular instance, because only minority students were required to 'line up' for possible identification."

Blacks at the 25,000-student university have said they frequently are subjected to racial slurs and insults by whites. About 7 per cent of the students at the school are black.

Three white students were suspended from the school last year for their part in the clash after the baseball game, two others were placed on probation and a sixth was expelled on an unrelated matter.

COLUMNS 7&8

AIDS tally tops 77,000 worldwide

GENEVA (R) — An additional 3,519 cases of AIDS, mostly in the United States, were officially reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO) last month, raising the global total to 77,266 in 132 countries, the WHO said Friday. But it added that the final world total for 1987 was still incomplete since most countries had not yet reported all cases diagnosed during the year. Reports of first AIDS cases diagnosed in 1988 would probably not reach WHO headquarters until late February or March, it said. The WHO says officially reported cases are only a fraction of the true world total, which it estimated at 150,000 at the beginning of 1988, and likely to double by the end of the year. The U.S. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome tally on Jan. 18, the date of its most recent report, was 51,361 reported cases, an increase of 3,222 since a Dec. 7 report. In Europe, 8,939 cases were notified by 27 countries by Jan. 31, compared with 8,875 at Dec. 30. Africa's total was 8,748 cases in 40 states. African nations reporting cases for the first time were Burkina Faso with 26; Niger, nine; and Togo, two.

Conservationists protest hare hunting

LONDON (R) — British conservationists began a 320-kilometre march to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's office Saturday to call for an end to hunting hares for sport. "Every year hundreds of people get their kicks from watching a small harmless creature ripped apart by two powerful dogs. It is called 'hare coursing'. It is still legal, and it happens all over the country," the National Anti-Coursing Council said. Hare coursing, in which the hares are driven some 700 metres and then two dogs released after them, is one of several sports which animal-loving Britons say is cruel and want to see banned. Others include fox and stag hunting. The march from Altrich, a northwest English village which sees the final hare coursing event every March, is due to end on Feb. 25, when the conservationists deliver a petition to Thatcher signed by 250,000 people urging that the sport be banned. "When both dogs catch the quarry, the hare can become a living 'rope' in a tug-of-war, being pulled and torn between the two dogs," a pamphlet by the League of Cruel Sports said.

Activists seek to prevent ox stunt

WITBANK, South Africa (AP) — An animal rights group said Friday it was outraged at a publicity gimmick by festival organisers who plan to parachute an ox from a helicopter. "It's a sick publicity stunt," said Sharelle Haward of the local chapter of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "It's an outrage and we're not going to let it happen." But Eugene Van Niekerk, chairman of the Witbank Trimweek Committee, said he was serious about the "flying ox" attraction at the health and fitness festival in March. He said the plan was to take an ox weighing about 200 kilograms in a helicopter up to about 1,200 metres. Then the helicopter would tilt to one side and the ox, attached to three canvas parachutes, would fall out, he said. Eight human parachutists will accompany the ox to pull the beasts' parachute cords at the precise moment, Van Niekerk added. The ox is supposed to land on a mattress in the rugby stadium in Witbank, a town about 100 kilometres east of Johannesburg. The ox would then be slaughtered and barbecued, Haward said. The event is scheduled for March 12. However, Haward warned, "The people in this area think it's a crazy stunt. We'll stop him."

1,200-year-old canal discovered in U.S.

BOSTON (R) — Archaeologists have found a six-mile canal which was built by Native Americans over a thousand years ago in the Sonoran Desert near Tucson, Arizona. The finding by archaeologists from the University of Arizona was reported at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The canal, used for drinking water, represents a major engineering feat by the Hohokam tribe, which vanished centuries ago, a spokesperson said. The canal was designed to take water from the Santa Cruz River to a Hohokam village between 800 and 1400 A.D. The Hohokam abandoned their villages for unknown reasons just before the Spanish came to the New World.

Protests mark Bachchan movie release

NEW DELHI (AP) — The release of a police-thriller movie by screen idol Amitabh Bachchan Friday was met with scores of minor protests nationwide against his alleged involvement in an arms sale scandal, the United News of India (UNI) reported. More than 20 people were injured in clashes outside theatres, the news agency said. Still, the film "Shahenshah" — Bachchan's first in more than a year — was expected to be a best-seller, UNI said. The film is about a policeman named Shahenshah who "moonlights" as a free-lance anti-crime fighter. There have been allegations that Bachchan and his businessman brother, Ajitabh, may have benefitted from kickbacks paid to secure India's purchase of artillery guns from the Swedish arm maker, Bofors. The brothers have denied any wrongdoing, and Bofors has said repeatedly that no bribes or kickbacks were paid in the \$1.7-billion deal in 1986. Bachchan, a member of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress Party, resigned from Parliament in July at the height of the scandal, but remains one of India's most popular film stars. UNI said most of the protests against the new film were organised by opposition parties.

Overweight man continues diet crusade

HEMPSTEAD, New York (AP) — Walter Hudson says he's still dieting to get rid of more of the 545 kilograms (1,200 pounds) he once weighed — but now it's as incentive for other overweight people. "If I gain weight and go back to eating there will be a lot of other people out there doing the same thing," says Hudson, who now weighs 363 kgs (800 lbs). "They'll say, 'gave up. Why should I keep going?'" The 43-year-old man had been under the supervision of comedian-nutritionist Dick Gregory. But when Hudson refused to come out of his house last week to continue his treatment in the Bahamas, Gregory resigned. "I was not ready," says Hudson. "I plan on leaving the house on my own time, when my legs can carry me." By April, he hopes to be down to 250 kgs (350 lbs) and go outside his house by August — for the first time in 17 years.

Woman accused of starving daughter

MILTON, Florida (AP) — A mother has been jailed in the starvation death of her 4-year-old daughter following an exorcism ritual to rid the child of evil spirits, authorities said. Darlene Patricia Jackson, 32, was arrested by Santa Rosa County sheriff's deputies after an autopsy showed Kimberly Renea McZine's death Monday was caused by starvation. Jackson was jailed without the possibility of release on bond Thursday. A grand jury will be convened to decide whether Jackson should stand trial for murder. "The evidence indicates the mother, through her religious beliefs, may have thought she was exorcising a spirit from her daughter," said Sheriff's Lt. Terry Hardy. "As a result of an autopsy, the cause of death was determined to be starvation," he said. "The investigation revealed physical evidence that documents the mother deprived the child of food and drink over an extended period of time, possibly as long as a year." Jackson's diary showed that she felt what she was doing was right, Hardy said. But he said she did not follow any particular religion. "She attended a lot of those Evangelistic revivals they hold all around," Bryant said. Kimberly was Jackson's only child. She never married the child's father.

Moscow accuses U.S. of slandering human rights record

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin accused the U.S. State Department Friday of spreading "malicious slanders" about human rights in the Soviet Union and charged that the United States has violations of its own.

The Soviet news agency TASS carried an interview with Alexei Glukhov of the Soviet Foreign Ministry about the State Department's annual report on human rights around the world.

The report, released Wednesday in Washington, said the Soviet government gave its people greater freedom and showed more tolerance toward dissenters in 1987. But it said an all-powerful secret police remained unchecked.

TASS said the report "again contains malicious slanders against the socialist countries, including the USSR."

Glukhov, first deputy head of

the foreign ministry's Directorate for Humanitarian and Cultural Issues, accused the State Department of making the allegations now to torpedo the intermediate-range nuclear weapons treaty making its way through Congress.

The Soviet Union, Glukhov noted, last year conducted a prison amnesty and introduced new rules on emigration and immigration. The State Department ignored these steps and relied on faulty information for its report, he charged.

"Much of the specific information contained in that report is clearly drawn from unclean sources," he said, citing what he said was an exaggerated figure of 400 political prisoners in the USSR.

"Obviously, the U.S. State Department again lacks simple objectivity and simple truthfulness in the evaluations," he said.

Bush, Dole neck-and-neck in New Hampshire polls

MERRIMACK, New Hampshire (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush, once the clear favourite in the race to become the Republican Party's presidential candidate, is now neck-and-neck with Kansas Senator Robert Dole.

Sliding in opinion polls and disowned by a Republican who has long called himself Bush's friend, the bouncy former diplomat and ex-CIA chief is struggling to recover from the blow of finishing third in this week's Iowa state caucus.

Judging by television network opinion polls of probable voters, the New Hampshire presidential primary election next Tuesday has become too close to forecast the result, in contrast to polls less than one month ago showing Bush with a two-to-one lead.

Primaries, part of the presidential selection process, are held in individual states so that voters can select delegates to support their preferred candidates at the national party conventions in the summer.

In a startling upset in Iowa,

Bush fell to third place behind former television preacher Pat Robertson.

Dole won that contest as expected and his professional pollster Richard Wirthlin says of New Hampshire: "The race is now ours to win."

Since Monday, Dole's momentum appears to have picked up strongly as questions are raised about Bush's leadership qualities and his exact role in the Reagan White House.

Bush suffered a double jolt of bad news Friday. Retired General Alexander Haig, who was badly trailing here and who finished last in Iowa, quit the Republican race and said he would now support Dole.

Haig said Dole was "head and shoulders" above Bush as a potential president.

After the Haig endorsement, the CBS television network released the results of an opinion poll taken on Feb. 10 and 11 that showed Dole overtaking the vice-president by 52 per cent to 29 per cent, but CBS said the race was up for grabs.

U.S. explains SDI test failure

WASHINGTON (AP) — A research satellite launched last week to test elements of the proposed "Star Wars" anti-missile shield failed in a secondary tracking exercise when an optical sensor gave false data to two on-board computers, an air force official said Friday.

Air Force Colonel John Otten, assistant director of the Strategic Defence Initiative's kinetic energy office, said an optical sensor on Delta 181, a satellite used to test "Star Wars" sensors and trackers, gave flawed data when it tried to track target objects that were beyond its range.

Otten said the sensor data went into the computers, causing them to respond inappropriately. He said the flaw was detected within an hour and the computers were told to ignore the data. This corrected the problem.

Some of the test data on the system was lost because of the problem.

150 S. Vietnamese officials released from detention

BANGKOK (AP) — More than 150 former officials of the overthrown South Vietnamese government have been released after 13 years of detention, the official Vietnamese News Agency reported Saturday.

The report from Hanoi, monitored in Bangkok, did not give specific figures, but said those freed Friday included an ex-cabinet minister, a deputy minister, 10 generals, 115 field-grade officers and 25 chaplains.

It quoted Colonel Luv Van Ham, director of the Nam Ha Camp south of Hanoi, as saying all 700 former South Vietnamese officials who had been held at the camp have been released.

They were among 1,014 South Vietnamese who were to be released from re-education camps under an amnesty announced by the Communist government to mark Tet, the lunar new year that begins Feb. 17.

The agency said many foreign journalists and a delegation from the Australia-Vietnam Friendship Association attended Friday's release ceremony.

Iowa police suspect Lebanon link in counterfeit dollars

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Six people have been arrested in what federal officials say is an international counterfeit scheme involving thousands of bogus \$100 bills, and investigators are trying to determine whether the phony money came from Lebanon.

The arrests began after an Iowa State University student from Lebanon, Roger Yousef Khoury, 25, was taken into custody by Creston police and federal agents following a tip that suspect bills had been received by a grocery and department store in Creston.

Khoury was charged with passing and possessing phony U.S. money. Federal officials said he had several counterfeit \$100 bills in his possession when he was arrested.

Also arrested during the month-long investigation was Kenny Neil, 29, who played football for Iowa State from 1977 to 1980. Neil, who has been working for the Iowa department of transportation, was a seventh-round draft choice of the New York Jets professional football team in 1981.

He was charged with possessing counterfeit money.

Also charged were Daniel Lee Habbab, 28, a disc jockey at an Ames nightclub; his roommate, Guy K. Sejaan, 26, a Lebanese citizen and Iowa State student; and two other students.

Habbab and Sejaan pleaded guilty Thursday to charges of possessing counterfeit \$100 bills. They have agreed to testify against the other four, officials said.

American Secret Service agent William Lenz said investigators are trying to determine whether the money came from Lebanon.

Documents filed in U.S. district court as part of the guilty pleas by Habbab and Sejaan include an account of Sejaan's conversation last year with two Cedar Rapids men in which they discussed the possible sale of bogus U.S. currency.

Sejaan said he talked to Khoury because he knew Khoury needed money to stay in school. Khoury told him to get \$5,000 in counterfeit money from one of the Cedar Rapids men

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OWAIN SHERRILL
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SILENCE CAN BE GOLDEN			
North-South vulnerable. South deals.			
NORTH			
♠ K 10 9 5			
♥ 8 6 4 2			
♦ J 5			
♣ Q 8 3			
WEST			
♠ 8 4			
♥ Q J 6 3			
♦ Q 9 7 5			
♣ K Q 10 7 3			
♠ 7 4			
EAST			
♠ A 7 2			
♥ A K J			
♦ 8			
♣ A K 10 8 2			
The bidding:			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
4 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠			

In tournament bridge, the tendency these days is to overcall on almost any hand that contains 13 cards. When you use two-suited overcalls in the bargain, you can be painting a very expensive picture of your hand.

West's unusual no trump overcall showed the red suits, and it is not the sort of action we favor. Since North had not yet bid, South's double was for takeout. When South rebid his club suit at the four-level, North knew his partner had a very powerful hand,

so he decided that his high trump honor and spade king merited a push to game.

West made his normal lead of the king of diamonds and continued the suit for declarer to ruff. The ace-king of trumps pulled all of the enemy's fangs, and thanks to West's descriptive overcall on a collection of junk declarer could now claim his contract.

Had he had nothing to guide him, declarer's best line would have been to lead three rounds of spades. If the suit split 3-3 or if either defender held a doubton honor, the long spade would have taken care of declarer's heart loser. If nothing favorable transpired, declarer could still use his trump entry to dummy for a heart finesse. That would have spelled defeat as the cards lie.

Because West's action marked him with at least four hearts, and therefore, no more than two spades, declarer had a sure-trick alternative line. He cashed the ace-king of hearts and ace of spades, and then continued with a low spade. When West followed low, declarer simply finessed the nine. East won, but had a choice of leading returns. He could either lead a spade into dummy's K-10 tenace, or else play a diamond, which would allow declarer to sluff the jack of hearts while ruffing on the board. Either way, 11 tricks were in the bag.